

# THE GATEWAY

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## Albertan gender wage disparity worst nationally

JONATHAN TAVES  
Deputy News Editor

A recent report published by the Parkland Institute at the University of Alberta has shown that Canadian women are making far less money than men for the same amount of work.

The report compares full-year and full-time work between the sexes in 2007, and across the country, women made only 74.4 per cent of men. In Alberta, women are the worst off, where that figure drops to 65.9 per cent.

"There are various reasons for the wage gap, when you look across the country and when you look internationally. One of the reasons is that men tend to be concentrated in higher-paid blue-collar or managerial jobs," said Shannon Phillips, research associate at the Parkland Institute, and author of the study.

Given that many of Alberta's high-paying jobs are in traditionally male-dominated trades, one might postulate that jobs requiring degrees would be more equitable. However, Phillips found this wasn't the case.

Comparing university graduates who work full-year and full-time, the report says "women with university degrees earned a median 67 per cent of what men earned," that number is down from 79 per cent in 2002.

Phillips argued this discrepancy stems from another area that's lacking in Canada, and particularly in Alberta.

"One of the big contributing factors to the wage gap is the kind of social and economic policies around what I'll broadly call family benefits," she said.

The report cited Alberta as allowing only the bare federally mandated minimum of 50 weeks of parental leave.

This statistic is one of many that contributed to Canada being ranked last out of 25 industrialized countries in a UNICEF report on early childhood care and education released in December 2008, *The child care transition, Innocent Report Card 8*.

"Within that context you have Alberta, which has the lowest number of regulated childcare spaces," Phillips said.

PLEASE SEE **WAGES** ♦ PAGE 4



AARON YEO

**GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS A U** of A student walks past a freshly postered wall promoting the SU's Legislate This! protest on March 18.

## Students' Union prepares for march on Legislature

SEAN STEELS  
Senior News Editor

Students' Union President Zach Fentiman announced Tuesday that stakes are now higher than ever for action to be taken against fee increases in the 2010/11 budget.

"We've been hearing from people across the campus community as well as in the provincial government that the form letters from the website are beginning to work," Fentiman said, alluding to online MLA complaint forms being made available through the SU's website.

Fentiman added that student involvement

leading up to the Students' Union's March 18 protest at the Legislature would help set the tone for negotiations. A Council of Alberta University Students lobby conference on Monday, March 15 will also give SU executives a chance to meet further with Minister of Advanced Education Doug Horner on the issue.

Fentiman also quelled concerns raised throughout the recent election campaign that the scheduled march would be less effective for occurring after provincial finance committee meetings to debate imposition of fees today.

"Right now, the board is facing a [fee increase] proposal; that's the same proposal that we've

seen. Obviously, we don't think it's an adequate proposal and should be taken back for consideration," he said.

Any action occurring at provincial committees would still need approval at the U of A's board of governors, extending the amount of time the SU has to work in.

"If the board committee passes it and it goes to the BoG itself, it still fits within our timeline," he said.

"We're still waiting on any ministerial action, but we've heard that there is appetite for putting regulation around mandatory non-instructional fees."



PETE YEE

**POSITION BOOKED** VP Trueblood (right) will be succeeded by Eastham.

## Digital books seen as classroom alternative

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
News Staff

Searching for alternatives to textbooks that continually ramp up in cost, students are looking to electronic books more frequently.

James Eastham, the Students' Union academic vice president-elect made textbook cost issues a central tenet of his election platform. He said that he's noticed the trend that e-books are something students are interested in pursuing as an alternative to traditional textbooks.

"Lots of students that I've talked to suggested that they'd like to be able to carry their textbooks with them. And

since they always have their laptops around, if they could just have them on their laptop, that would be great," Eastham said.

However, current Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood explained that there are copyright issues that are holding back widespread use of the tools.

"We're still pretty limited in some ways by some of the digital rights management, some of the copyright regulation in Canada versus what happens in the United States," Trueblood said.

Trueblood also pointed out that the cost of e-books is not yet low enough to make it a viable option.

"In Canada, the price was at least two-thirds of what it was in a paper version, which is obviously a big advocacy issue for us, because why if there are no shipping and printing costs is it remaining that expensive?"

Eastham noted that publishers currently have no incentives to reduce costs.

"Essentially, the publishers can sell it for that, and because they don't have printing and shipping costs, they can make more money off of it, so why not? It's the same reasons they change editions every year and the same reason that they bundle useless junk with your textbooks," he said.

PLEASE SEE **EBOOK** ♦ PAGE 3



## Searching out cancer

Communities in Northern Alberta are finding themselves afflicted with higher-than-usual rates of the disease.

FEATURE, PAGE 10-12



## Singing the answer

Musician Hawksley Workman releases *Milk and Meat*, and shares his hunger for more studio time.

A&E, PAGE 13



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## colophon

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“I've been kicked enough these last few weeks.

## COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Jonathan Taves

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16, where free food will be provided for all attendees.**This week, attendees filled their plates with samosas, pita chips, hummus, and Greek salad before the meeting. Council got back to business for the first time since prior to the Students' Union executive election campaigns, but quorum was barely reached.*

## THAT'S THE TICKET

Council heard a presentation from representatives from Dub5, a company that has been developing software in conjunction with the SU. Their original programs have scheduling, email, and project collaboration applications, but on Tuesday they were there to gauge council interest in a ticket distribution arm of their company. They would like to get SU approval to be the proprietor of tickets to events around campus. They're building their model with lower service charges than Ticketmaster, and if an agreement is reached, charges would be split evenly between them.

## DIVIDING THE SPOILS

The lone item on the agenda was a review

of the priority principles for the SU's \$10-million budget in the upcoming year. The standing rule of running a no-deficit budget will be observed, and most SU businesses, services, and programming will remain the same from the 2009/10 year. Operating and dedicated fees will rise by 1.5 per cent to coincide with the tuition boost tied to the consumer price index. As well, most managerial and non-unionized staff will be entitled to a merit increase of up to 4 per cent. SUBspace will no longer be an SU business, and will instead operate as a SUB rental operation. Other changes include a greater emphasis on student group granting allocation and advertising efforts for SU businesses and services.

Among points of contention was the earmarked \$100,000 for future SUB expansion in last year's budget. Board of Governors representative Steven Dollansky expressed his concern that this wasn't in 2010/11's principles. President Zach Fentiman maintained that this is still a priority, but a definite amount hasn't been finalized. The SU's commitment to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations was also questioned. But Fentiman also defended that, saying that the 0.5 per cent of the budget that it costs is worth the federal lobbying power that the organization provides. He cited textbook costs as an example of an issue that must be dealt with at that level.

## MARCH IN MARCH

Fentiman discussed the SU's Mind the Gap campaign against a proposed \$550 mandatory non-instructional fee that could be imposed on students next

**JAIMAN CHIN**  
Vice President (Operations and Finance)

—after being mistakenly called councillor by speaker Craig Turner

year, pending approval from the Board of Governors. Posters have gone up all around campus advertising a march to the legislature on March 18 to protest the fee increases. Fentiman said he's confident the effort can achieve results, and is hoping at least 1,000 students take the trip across the High Level Bridge.

## PERMANENT PLACEMENT

Councillor Rachel Dunn talked about recent discussions of the Council Administration Committee. They determined recently that the Bylaw 2000 review committee, which looked at the rules governing elections, had been a worthwhile endeavour, and are proposing the establishment of a permanent elections review committee to take its place.

## QUESTION PERIOD

Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood fielded a question regarding the plans for a new faculty association for science students. She said that the proposal deadline has passed, and the selection committee will meet on Friday to determine the best one. The probation period for the new organization will take effect at the end of April.

Vice President (Operations and Finance) Jaiman Chin discussed some of the remarks he made about the Room at the Top earlier this year. He said he's displeased with some of the customer service, and is disappointed that meal cards are unavailable so often, given that a large portion of the customer base comes from Lister Hall. He will be looking into how improvements can be made.

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Sean Steels

## STEALING IS TIRING

On March 5 just after 4 a.m., a student approached a CSS officer in Cameron Library to report his backpack had been stolen while he had fallen asleep in the south quiet room in SUB.

Officers met with the student, and were able to check the video system for SUB which showed a male and female steal the bag. The pair were found asleep on the sofas after a check of SUB to see if the culprits were still in the area. EPS were contacted and arrested both for theft. The contents of the backpack were intact.

## THOSE DARN KIDS

On March 5, a staff member reported to 5-0 that someone has been vandalizing her vehicle. The victim told CSS the vandalism has occurred on three occasions since January. Officers are investigating the incident.

## KEEP IT LOCKED

On March 5 at 5:30 p.m., a staff member returned to her vehicle near HUB Mall and found one of the doors ajar. Further inspection revealed persons had rummaged through her vehicle and had stolen some cell phone chargers. CSS are reminding vehicle owners to take their devices with them or lock them in the trunk.

## WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE

On March 5 at 8:30 p.m., 5-0 received a report of fireworks being set off near the Timms Centre. CSS arrived on scene and spoke to people in the area who had seen a group leave the vicinity just prior to the arrival of CSS.

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
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Arts I**Coretta Adriaans**  
Business II

It would hinder them because it would be a little confusing about why there is an election [when] I just voted in one.

It helps voter turnout so that people know who the candidates are and what is going on.

People will just keep coming back for more like my ex-girlfriend.

I'm not informed enough to vote. I don't know anything because they don't educate us.



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# Students amass panties for peace



AARON YEO

**UNDERWEAR UNITY** Organizers of Panties for Peace are lampooning a Burmese superstition about women’s underwear.

AARON YEO  
News Staff

A worldwide campaign against the military regime governing Burma has reached Edmonton, and the organizers want women to take off their underwear.

The group responsible is Rights and Democracy, a global human rights organization, who have a student-run chapter at the University of Alberta.

Saima Butt, a fourth-year Political Science student at the University of Alberta, is the lead delegate of the group here on campus. She described the campaign entitled Panties for Peace, which encourages women around the world to mail their underwear to Burmese embassies around the world.

“It’s based off a superstitious fear that the military leaders have,” she explained. “If they come into contact with women’s underwear, they will lose all their power.”

The campaign encourages women to write slogans such as “Solidarity with Burma” and “Oust the Regime” on their used, clean panties.

By holding a speakers event this past Monday, the current mission to get word out to students is fulfilled, Butt said.

“Basically, we’re here just to raise

awareness,” she added. “If we just get our message across and get people talking about it, we’ve achieved our goal.”

Speaker Mika Lévesque wasn’t deterred by a modest event turnout.

“I would go across Canada to speak to one person who is interested in Burma,” she explained. “It is worth it.”

Lévesque is the Rights & Democracy Regional Officer for Asia and has been working on the situation in Burma for years.

“[Burma] is a country that has some of the worst human rights violations. We’re speaking about systematic violation of human rights,” she said.

The campaign isn’t just focused on the political imbalance, but is using the panties as a link to the frequency of rape.

“The Burmese military are using the body of women as a field of war,” Lévesque said. “It’s [become] normal. When you go to a village, you attack the village, and when you see women, you rape them.”

She added that the army doesn’t just seek sex, but also exploits the women after capturing them.

“They use the women for cooking, entertaining, bringing them drinks, and so on,” she explained. “So usually they work them during the day, and

at night they abuse them [and] rape them.”

Lévesque also mentioned that such superstitions are not unique to Burma.

“Every culture has a taboo against women,” she said. “There was a law in Canada that forbid women to go into mines underground. They believe that when a woman goes underground, you won’t find any gold anymore. What the women in Burma did was turn that taboo around, use it to their advantage.”

She admitted that the campaign is funny, and noted the benefit of the extra attention it attracts.

“It’s therapeutic, it’s funny. It’s better to laugh than to cry and think about the scary images and pictures. It’s funny, but to them it’s a weapon,” she said. “I’m sorry about men — your underwear has no power.”

Even though the group has been fighting for decades, Lévesque noted that with persistence, she is confident they will prevail no matter how bleak the situation may look.

“Look at the Berlin Wall,” she said. “Nobody could say, ‘In a few more months, no more Berlin Wall.’ It’s the same in Burma. Burma can fall down any time.”

# Learning options should remain varied: Trueblood

**EBOOK ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Eastham also pointed out that students can’t sell e-books back, so the costs might even be higher with e-books overall.

“There’s the fact that students can’t resell the book. Even if you’re providing cost savings initially, if you can get more than that by reselling the book, then you’re not really providing much of a service,” he said.

When students are using an e-book, they rent the file for a period of time, which can lead to problems.

“There were issues with the time lapse expiring before students write exams, so if the times didn’t line up with our current academic schedule, then they lose the material,” Trueblood explained.

Regardless of these setbacks, Trueblood said that it’s important to give students the options to choose for themselves.

“We have an enormous student body with lots of different learning styles and lots of different lifestyles. I think it’s important that we’re able to provide students all the options that are available to them,” she said. “I don’t think

at the current price, we’d have a lot of buy-in, but I do think there are some students that would benefit from them being available.”

Trueblood said that textbooks are not the only type of academic materials that students pay for. They’ve recently started taking iClickers — hand-held, electronic answer submitters — on consignment, and it’s important to consider if these academic materials are truly needed by students.

“I think it’s important that we think about all academic materials and that we’re concerned, not only with the amounts students are paying, but the quality,” she said. “Do students really need a textbook with 13 chapters that have no relationship to the course material?”

A different option for reducing costs is textbook rentals, she added.

Another priority is educating professors on whether or not their material is available in the public domain. The SU is also working on negotiating edition freezes. Furthermore, in the U.S., there is legislation to prohibit bundling, and Eastham said he will work on advocacy in all these areas.

## from the archives

“Dye-ing to oppose slaughter”  
March 11, 1976

Members of the Greenpeace environmental protection group will be on the Newfoundland ice floes this week applying an indelible green dye to the clean white coats of baby seals.

The dye is intended to destroy the commercial value of the pelts.

The group is attempting to save an estimated 142,000 seals, which they predict will be slaughtered by Norwegian and Canadian hunters within the next seven weeks.

Greenpeace’s Ottawa project spokesman Alan Wade said: “It will be practically impossible to remove.”

The dye has been tested and used before to monitor migratory patterns. It will have no ill effects on the seals, he said.

*From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta’s student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out [thegatewayonline.ca/archives](http://thegatewayonline.ca/archives)*

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# Adult disability aid program leaves U of A

MEGHAN PRINS  
News Writer

March is National Awareness Month for the Best Buddies program, but while volunteers are busy spreading the word, the University of Alberta may be left in the dark after the local chapter was cancelled last year.

This international program has 187 chapters across Canada, and aims to create friendship by pairing students and adults with intellectual disabilities to spend time together. There are chapters at most major universities, but as of last September, the U of A ceased its involvement in the program due to lack of student volunteers and no candidates to take over the campus co-ordinator role.

"The goal is to create an inclusive environment for adults with intellectual disabilities and one-on-one friendships with their peers. The program allows them to be a part of a community," said western Canada program manager Amy Lynn Taylor.

Best Buddies has paired with Chapters/Indigo for the second annual "Read All About It" event during their awareness month. Video clips about the program will be shown in select national theatres, while schools across the country are creating awareness by participating in local parades and hosting events such as dodgeball games.

Though the U of A is one of Canada's largest postsecondary schools, former volunteer Camille Dube said that creating awareness for this program is not an area where its community currently excels.

"It's pretty disappointing. It feels like we have really let people down. Universities that are a lot smaller offer it, and it's a shame that a large university such as ourselves let it go this year."

Last year, approximately 15 Best Buddies pairs at the U of A would meet to hold cooking nights, go to see Golden Bears or Pandas games, see movies or make crafts.

"It was awesome. It's just so rewarding. I can't



**SHARING LAUGHS** Though the U of A chapter has closed, the program met at Chapters on March 5.

think of a better use of leisure time," Dube said about her experiences with the program.

In order for the U of A chapter to be reinstated, Dube said that "someone has to step up for the role of campus co-ordinator and say 'I can do it.'"

"The student body that made up the chapter fell apart, and there was no one to take over the reigns," she said.

"Many of the students involved had graduated or become too busy to continue with the program. They would be looking to recruit students from different grade levels to prevent this problem in the future," Taylor stated.

Dick Sobsey, a U of A professor and associate director of the J.P. Das Developmental Disabilities Centre, said that "friendships are extremely important to people with developmental [or] intellectual disabilities; most certainly, a problem

is social isolation and they often do need help to develop these friendships."

For many adults with intellectual disabilities, their only social interaction is comprised of family and paid staff.

Taylor said that the program is important for allowing these adults to build different kinds of friendships.

"[The Best Buddies program provides] a chance for interaction with people their own age."

Although the program is currently on hiatus at the U of A, the local chapter has hopes of revamping it at the start of the Fall 2010 semester.

"There will be some hardcore recruiting next year. You will definitely see us at a booth in the Butterdome and in Quad at the beginning of the year," Dube said.

For additional information, go to [bestbuddies.ca](http://bestbuddies.ca).

## Current legislation adequate: Ministry

WAGES ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Our [raw] number of regulated childcare spaces hasn't grown since 1992 [...] even though our population and economy have exploded since then [...] Essentially Albertan women are accessing one of the worst — this is not an exaggeration — one of the worst family policies in the industrialized world."

Alberta's Minister of Employment and Immigration Thomas Lukazuk was unavailable for comment, but Terry Jorden, public affairs officer within the Ministry, defended current policies.

"Alberta's legislation reflects a balance between the need for new parents to spend time with their children and an employer's operational requirements," he said.

Jorden recognized that the wage gap does exist, but cited a 145 per cent increase in women in the construction industry from 1998 to 2008 as evidence that gender disparity is declining. He also noted January's labour force statistics that show unemployment among women is 5.9 per cent compared to 7.1 per cent for men.

"Differences in earnings might be because of lifestyle choices, societal roles, and career choices [The] government does not tell [Albertan] women what choices are the right ones for them and their families," he said.

But Phillips maintained that the current climate of family policy specifically limits choices for women in the workplace.

"We have a government that doesn't really see the value of these kinds of investments for the economy," she said. "When you invest in closing the wage gap, you end up with better retention of skilled female workers. You end up with a better ability to weather some of the demographic changes that are coming with an aging population."

"It's as if policy makers are still labouring under the wish, this fantasy, that we're going to have a one breadwinner model," Phillips added. "It's totally divorced from reality."



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

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# Copwatch bridges protection, public

Members meet once a month and organize weekly patrols to police the police

ETHAN CABEL  
The *Uniter* (University of Winnipeg)

WINNIPEG (CUP) — March 15 is International Day Against Police Brutality, and Winnipeg Copwatch is ready to make sure citizens know.

The non-profit and volunteer-based organization has scheduled a march to be held on Saturday, March 13 in Winnipeg in solidarity with the victims of police brutality.

“I think the very idea of cop watching has generated conversation,” said Alex Paterson, member of Winnipeg Copwatch.

The city’s Copwatch members meet once a month to organize committees and schedule events like weekly patrols, where volunteers record the conduct of police on the streets of a given neighbourhood. Through the police brutality march and other events, the group hopes they can successfully advocate for the full democratization of the Winnipeg Police Service.

“There is no direct mechanism for a community or neighbourhood [in Winnipeg] to review the actions of a police officer themselves,” Paterson said.

Last year, Manitoba made significant amendments to its Police Services Act and passed legislation that outlines policing duties, resulting in the Manitoba Police Commission, a civilian-led board that will be responsible for the hiring and firing of the police chief, administering police budgets and working to uphold accountability. The commission will be set up this year but has yet to be implemented. Its members will be appointed.

Copwatch maintains the commission must be elected like city council in order to be fully accountable.

“What we emphasize is that the institutional channels aren’t set up for citizens to have control of the WPS,” Paterson said.

However, the WPS believes it is making great efforts to reach out to communities in the city.

“We’re always supportive of initiatives to make the WPS more



ANTOINETTE DYCKSMAN/THE UNITER

**UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY** Copwatch aims to improve police accountability.

transparent,” said Constable Jacqueline Chaput, public information officer for the WPS. She added the police put out regular media releases made available to the public and to the press. She believes that beat patrols and uniformed police that patrol sidewalks are helping to bridge the gap between the police and the community.

“We are a very visible presence [in Winnipeg’s downtown] and can address and take a proactive approach to crime in those neighbourhoods,” she said.

Sel Burrows, a 66-year-old civic Winnipeg activist, agreed.

“The police can only do so much,” he said. “The community itself must make clear what its standards are.”

Burrows and his wife have set up Powerline, a volunteer-run telephone line in Winnipeg’s North and South Point Douglas neighbourhoods, that

is meant for non-emergency calls that require investigation, like a neighbourhood house suspected of drug trafficking. Calls made to the Powerline remain anonymous and are passed on to the Public Safety Investigations Branch of Manitoba Justice, who will then conduct an investigation if warranted.

Burrows sat on the Police Advisory Board, a citizen-based board meant to make recommendations to the WPS, which was disbanded last year in favour of the police commission.

Although Copwatch advocates for the democratization of police, they are less clear on suggesting what that should look like.

“It’s [...] important to point out that there is currently no citizen participation in thinking about or making decisions about how the police function in our society,” said Shelagh Pizey-Allen, a Copwatch member.

# UBC campus death under investigation

SARAH RATCHFORD  
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

FREDERICTON (CUP) — Details of the events surrounding the death of Silas Rogers are going to take longer to come to light than some might expect.

The 20-year-old man from Saint John, New Brunswick died after being found unconscious in a University of British Columbia residence during the final week of the Olympics — a day after being released from a holding cell for being drunk in public.

The investigation is expected to take months.

“Sometimes it takes up to a year, sometimes even more,” said Lori Campbell, a forensic toxicology specialist with the RCMP forensic lab in Halifax. She explained that the coroner has to draw samples, which have to be sent to a lab in Vancouver.

Those results, though, take months — and then other information has to be gathered from tests for police to release an autopsy report. Only then will information about Rogers’ death become public.

The exact cause of death and the events leading up to the discovery of his body are being investigated, but

this much is known: he was arrested by RCMP in Whistler, B.C. on February 23 for being drunk in public. He was released the next morning, only to be found unconscious 23 hours later. He died the following day, Friday, in a Vancouver hospital.

**“Whatever the cause of death might be, we have to be careful respecting the family.”**

JANA MCGUINNESS  
MEDIA RELATIONS, VPD

Rogers was a student at UBC, having moved there after graduating from Saint John High School.

The Vancouver Police Department is investigating the case, but is hesitant to release information. Jana McGuinness, a media relations officer with the department, said police still aren’t even able to officially release so much as Rogers’ name in connection with the case, only referring to him as a UBC student.

“The police haven’t released it publicly because the cause of death is not

determined. If it’s a homicide, we release the name quickly afterwards. But when the cause of death is undetermined, there are privacy rules,” she said. “Whatever the cause of death might be, we have to be careful respecting the family.”

McGuinness says the investigation will examine what happened over the four days — from the Tuesday of Rogers’ arrest until his death on Friday, February 26.

The Vancouver police were asked by the the RCMP to take on the investigation on Thursday, while Rogers was still alive.

“The RCMP wanted us to cover all the bases,” McGuinness said.

A new policy was enacted on February 4 by the RCMP to defer investigations of RCMP employees to an outside agency, including those investigations involving injury or death.

“That’s why the Vancouver police have this investigation,” McGuinness added.

Campbell pointed out that it isn’t customary to publicly release bits of information related to ongoing investigations.

“Sometimes it’s not quick enough for the family, though,” she said.



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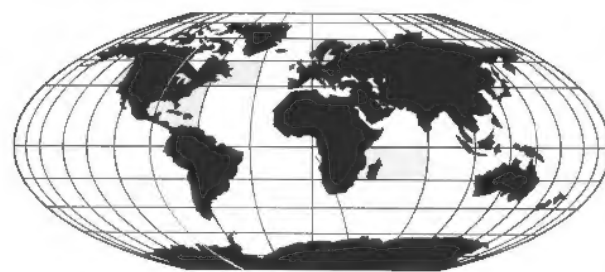
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## Stelmach's back-paddling inane

PREMIER ED STELMACH HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN in more comfortable positions regarding his relationship with the press after stating Monday that he had never seen photographs or video of a group of ducks trapped and covered in oil on the surface of a Syncrude tailings pond. But I feel proud to think that in this province of equal opportunity, the people saw fit to elevate a blind man to the position of premier.

For those out of the loop, in April 2008, 1,600 ducks landed on a Syncrude tailings pond, sparking a media storm, and subsequent disbelief at Stelmach not having seen them.

But now, my faith in a fair and equitable province has been shattered, or at least knocked a step backwards, as it seems that Stelmach was uncertain of his statement's truth, saying now that he did see the photos the day after they were published.

Now, on a different pond, in a different province, similar comments from another premier wouldn't be that aggravating, all things considered. We've come to expect the wheeling and dealings of politicians, and the back-peddalled statement isn't entirely surprising from someone who has risen to such ranks.

But Stelmach's public foible illustrates one of two things: he was either ignorant to the question being asked of him, or ignorant to one of 2008's most well-publicized environmental disasters in a province that has built its legacy on the basis of oil.

Stelmach now seems to have realized — as has everyone else — the ridiculousness of either statement, and has begun the obligatory political manoeuvring to ensure he won't be pulled into the controversy surrounding Syncrude's trial.

The associated public spotlight has already unearthed Syncrude's violation of a federal law to protect migratory birds, and it's uncertain what other potentially embarrassing lapses of attention could arise through investigation.

Regardless, while Syncrude sits in the defendant's box, and the government regulators under whose watch 1,600 ducks were killed receive reprimands, the need to defend our province's environmental interests persists. Our countryside sits no less punctuated by pump jacks. Entrenched oil companies wait, no more likely than before to defend anyone's interests but their stockholders while complying with the barest of safety standards.

What's disappointing in this situation is not the actions of Syncrude. If convicted of their charges, they will be another oil company among the list of many to defy regulation in the name of profit. What irks me, and likely other Albertans, is the ignorance shown by the provincial government, who, through their inattention, allowed a foreign interest like Syncrude to traipse wantonly amongst our delicate ecology.

In this day of international trade, the responsibility to protect our resources and the integrity of our home rests solely between the shoulders of us and our government. Letting this responsibility fall to the hands of others is effectively handing our entire future over to another party in this problematic chain.

Maybe Stelmach's eyes were busy looking to the States, and to the dollars entering provincial coffers from south-bound bitumen exports. Maybe they were glued that morning to the important business of one of our province's many boards and committees. Either way, that morning his eye probably should have been, if not for five minutes, on the front page of any newspaper.

SEAN STEELS  
Senior News Editor

## What would the shipping costs be?

Crosby scores the goal  
The stick gets lost in the mail  
Thanks, Canada Post

EVAN DAUM  
Still a baby in a cradle



## Stephen Harper-Throne Speech Reply



☆☆☆☆☆ 36 ratings 282 views

SSBBrox (46 seconds ago)  
this is so fckin' GAI!!!!!!1

1337kok (2 minutes ago)  
good vid. For the best porn go to  
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EDaumsworld (2 hours ago)  
Pants on the ground!

## STEPHEN HARPER'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

### letters TO THE eds

Sounds like a problem  
best solved by catapult

Recently, the Bookstore stopped carrying course books for Campus Saint Jean, and they are now sold at Le Carrefour — in a supposed effort to increase the ease of buying French-language textbooks. After spending hundreds of dollars on the required readings, which has amounted to a couple thousand over my five years at Campus Saint Jean, I tried to resell them at the Book Cellar, SUBtitles and Le Carrefour, but none would accept them.

Why not? What are we expected to do with our French-language textbooks?

STEPHANIE SMEDLEY  
Arts V

### from THE web

Let's have a little Sugar...

RE: (Bringing The Sunshine In, March 9)

This is what compassion is all about! Bravo to a wonderful

program and talented people who give of their time and resources. You are an inspiration to all.

TAMMY FAULKNER-SMITH  
Via Internet

...and Spice...

RE: (Campus food prices inhumane, March 4)

Mim, you seem to have priorities, so I find such a commentary confusing — you mention that you could rather spend potential savings of "humane" food prices on gas and rent. You clearly have your priorities set straight on your spending, and if gas and rent should take precedence over food, then why not accept food as a certain sacrifice of your budget?

You are not a business major as you have said, although this may be completely irrelevant. These "profits" you speak of do not go directly to the owner of any said food establishment, but rather pay to maintain labour of the people who serve you, who most likely are students such as yourself — their power, gas, lease, raw food supply, etc. So there may not be as much profit as you may see — not to mention the rising cost of food, already high in an export-dependent food market. Such costs must be taken into account if a fair assessment of

rising food costs is to be made.

You do recognize that there are ways of saving money on food — and this is sacrificing convenience for self-prepared food, hardly impractical when you take into account what you are complaining about, which is supposedly expensive food. Also, the even more expensive "healthy" food options are already available, and cheaper to those who diet independent of the current fast-food market.

I am afraid that you are intentionally limiting yourself and expect market welfare at the same time. It may be a good idea for certain places to offer incentives, but they are hardly feasible, judging by the foot traffic expected on campus. As you acknowledge, there are options to reducing personal food costs, and that is sacrificing convenience and becoming 'practical', as you mention — rather than eating dependent of an upcoming utopian system of diet-welfare.

JOSEF A. CHECKEL  
Via Internet

...And everything nice?

RE: (Record rates of IBD prompt study to find disease source, March 9)

I totally agree with you that some

places have Crohn's Disease far worse than others for no apparent reason.

In my very small local community there have been several people that have been diagnosed with Crohn's and it would be interesting if there was some kind of link there.

I will look forward to the results of the research and if can find any links between people with Crohn's in a certain area.

ANDREW FRANCIS  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed, unless they contain chatspeak, which shall immediately be grounds for death by large slingshot.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should ideally be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

ROSS VINCENT



# It's a mad, mad, madman's world



MIKE  
CHAFE

Lately I've noticed that there are a lot of women out there who hold men in very low regard. Just last week, I overheard a girl say that men were "brainless" and that we "only care about sex, beer, and cars." Now, let me assure you ladies that this couldn't be further from the truth. We could care less about cars.

But in all seriousness, I find the male brain to be a highly undervalued structure. Even though many men are often portrayed as simple-minded, emotionless jerks, the truth is that we're actually quite deep and complex. The male brain working at full potential is truly an amazing site, just like watching Avatar in 3-D, or that elephant at the zoo who can paint abstract pictures.

Perhaps the most astounding example of the sheer complexity of the male brain is the existence of the legendary and controversial concept of the man-crush. Unfortunately, despite the overwhelming presence of it in every aspect of society, there are many who remain unaware as to what a man-crush actually is. Why, if I had a nickel for every time someone asked me to explain the concept of a man-crush to them, I still wouldn't be even remotely close to filling one of those stupid coin roller things. Man, I hate those things.

For those unfamiliar, a man-crush is the result of a strong admiration, attraction, or even infatuation of one heterosexual male towards another. It's a unique relationship that exists between the realms of sexual attraction and borderline stalking. A man-crush is the result of a complex inter-connection of both shame and power. Much like when you see a fat guy wearing a Spider-Man t-shirt.

So how exactly did the notion of a man-crush come into existence? Some claim it to be the result of a build-up of fluid in the medulla, amygdala, and other hilariously named parts of the brain. Others believe the man-crush originated within the campfire stories told by turn-of-the-century gold miners. No matter what its origin, however, the man-crush is truly a figure of mystery and illusion.

Ladies, I assure you if you pry hard enough, virtually any guy will fess up to having a man-crush of some sort. Be it bestowed upon a star athlete, politician, or celebrity, the legendary man-crush exists within all men. However, many men are fearful to admit the existence of such an attraction as it weakens their place within the maleness hierarchy.

You see, we men are very proud creatures and thus when coming face-to-face with the unfamiliar, our natural reaction is to get angry and challenge it to a fight by the bike racks after school. Hence, it's merely a lack of understanding as to what a man-crush really is that leads to uncontrollable outbursts of male hostility. This theory also explains my hatred towards the sport of cricket. What a stupid sport — I'll fight anyone who plays it! To the death! I could have sworn it had been outlawed somewhere in this country.

I'm sure my large core of regular readers (Mom, junkies, and people using this article to line their bird-cages) are curious who my man-crush is. That's simple; he's a prominent public figure, a trendsetter in fashion, and an all around great guy — of course I'm referring to Gandhi. We could do so many things together: go rollerblading, take hip-hop dance lessons, and achieve inner peace. Yes, Gandhi and I would make a great team. Just like the 1954 Detroit Red Wings.

And so, our journey through the world of man-crushes has come to an end. Hopefully you found it to be insightful, full of life lessons, and above all else, you've walked away with a firm understanding of my main point: always spay and neuter your pets. Wait, that doesn't sound right. Sorry, I was too busy thinking about beer. In conclusion, the male brain is very weird.

**It's a unique relationship that exists between the realms of sexual attraction and borderline stalking. A man-crush is the result of a complex interconnection of both shame and power.**

## THE BURLAP SACK

So with all the excitement of the SU elections now behind us, I thought it would be at least a little while longer before I wrote something irritated regarding a poster. But graphic design snafus are liable to happen anywhere and everywhere, and so it's time to get my Poster Slam hat back on for one final go-round.

And to be fair, the culprit this time — the latest effort by the SU to try and get their inane "Mind The Gap!" campaign to catch on, with all the little dangly price tags and everything — is not terribly designed. It's a little overly blue, to be sure, and of an absurdly comical size, but the poster predicament is actually far more insipid than that.

There's a poster wall outside of SUB that many, many students walk past on a daily basis. It's an excellent sounding board and cornucopia of music previews, film advertisements, bar happenings, and plaintive-yet-amusing combination drum lesson advertisements and new roommate requests. I've used it on occasion, I have friends who have used it, and it's just generally an excellent way for students to connect with the community.

Of course, since it's not moderated, then there's always the chance that your poster will be paved over. The SU took that axiom and ran about 15 steps too far with it on Tuesday when they

covered literally the entire wall with their Mind The Gap! posters.

Seriously, what is the rationale here? That if students somehow missed the first dozen posters, the 13th will really catch their eye? That an ostentatious display of enormous publicity budgets will somehow be enticing? That a company that can afford to place 78 identical and expensive-looking posters — yes, I counted — right next to each other is somehow financially intelligent and a good group to trust with the future of your tuition? Sure, people can poster over your posters, but the entire act reeks of the cloying odour of "we have the resources to do this, and we'll do it again if we need to."

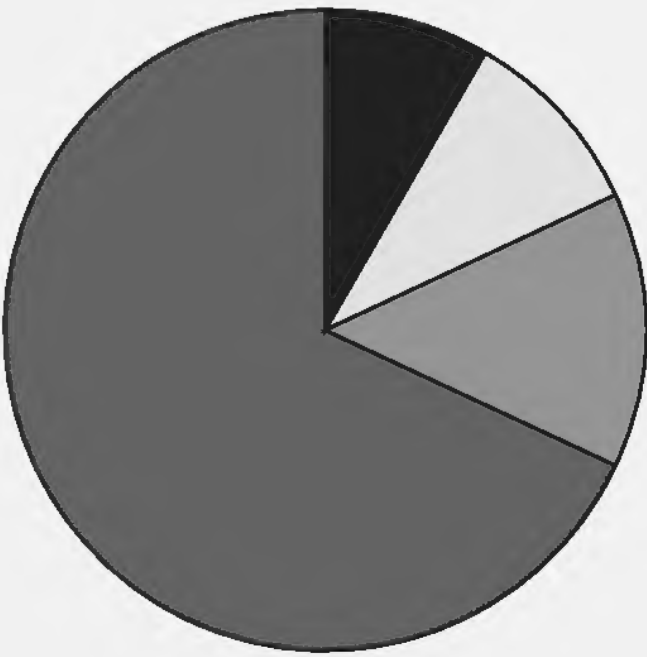
Muscling out smaller and less economically supported groups is not the way to coerce students onto your side to join in a happy-go-lucky march to the legislature — it makes you look like a group of bullies desperate to paint your shadows on the nearest available surface, lacking any kind of interpersonal skills whatsoever. Into the Sack you go, folks, until you learn how to play well with others. The decor's kind of bland in there, so just remember that if you hadn't wasted so many posters covering up other people's hard efforts, you could have something to look at right now.

DAVID JOHNSTON

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.*

### readerpoll

"Did you vote in this year's Students' Union executive elections?"



- Every race! (68%)
- Only the ones I cared about (14%)
- Not at all (10%)
- NOTA across the board! (8%)

TOTAL RESPONSES: 249

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:  
"What would convince you to March to the Legislature on March 18?"  
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## Opposed to opposition destruction



CODY  
CIVIERO

It shouldn't come as a surprise to any sentient Albertan, but it would appear that our province's opposition parties seem intent on continuing their long-standing policy of prolonged political suicide. In response to flagging voter turnout in the province, which is the lowest in Canada, the NDP's Brian Mason and Liberal Kevin Taft have both suggested implementing compulsory voting and fines for those who fail or refuse to cast a ballot in future provincial elections.

In his barely comprehensible justification for the idea, Mason said that Ed Stelmach was "happy because he won the election, but if we had a higher voter turnout, maybe there would have been some changes in the people elected. It serves him and his party well."

Now, I'm reluctant to praise Stelmach's take on the issue, which surely is a matter of strategy rather than principle. But there's something deeply offensive about Mason's argument — not necessarily the implication that the voting public is stupid and unable to make the "proper" decision, but the lame, mealy mouthed attempt at concealing the implication.

No, Mason's real problem — and Taft's, for that matter — is that he's done an exceptionally poor job of establishing himself in a province that requires an unusually substantial effort from the political left in order to gain a foothold. And no amount of whining, blaming the public, or financial or legal threats will change long-standing cultural attitudes in any meaningful way.

This simple-minded, facile method of addressing the arguably legitimate issue of apathy (I'd dispute the established convention that universal voter turnout would be an inherently positive thing) ignores the root causes of the problem in favour of a mindless statistical boast and cynically unprincipled change in a dynamic that hasn't worked out for the parties currently making a stink. The majority of people who waive their right to vote can be divided into one of two categories: those who are ignorant, uninformed, or lazy, and those who are active in politics and social justice, but feel disenfranchised by the system and choose to not make their voices heard.

Forced inclusion of the former group in the political process needlessly poisons the system with unnecessary representation of the poorly informed and/or idiotic, as people may be easily coerced into checking off a name on a ballot, but there's no way of ensuring that they properly educate themselves in order to make an informed decision. It only serves to dilute votes that actually mean anything. Coercion of the latter tramples on their right to emancipate themselves from what they view as a fallacy of choice (although they'd probably spoil the ballot anyways, making the whole thing a waste of time).

And although a less central objection, Mason and Taft's idea gets increasingly asinine when one considers that there would almost certainly be exemptions for religious groups involved, as these "values" are consistently and offensively determined by governmental officials to be somehow more important than secular philosophical principles.

A word to the opposition: if, by any chance, this asinine bit of authoritarianism goes through, those responsible will be known and held accountable. Choose your next move carefully before this stunt backfires, and try to be a little more creative next time.

### UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' COUNCIL & GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2010

# THE NOMINATION PACKAGES ARE IN

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CANDIDATES  
STUDENTS' COUNCIL

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Natalie Cox

#### ARTS

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Gabriel Sandstrom  
Kevin Thomas  
Aaron Singleton  
Roger Rouault  
Andrea Wallace  
Joshua Mountain  
Petros Kusmu \*  
Malori Stan \*  
Nariman Saidane \*  
Aditya Rao \*  
Joel French \*  
Kenzie Gordon \*

\* Students United For  
Progressive Action  
(SUPA) Slate

#### BUSINESS

Colten Yamagishi  
Harry Chandler

#### EDUCATION

Ngina wa Kaai

#### ENGINEERING

Michael Ross  
Farid Iskandar  
Noel Broughton

#### LAW

Leslie Stitt

#### MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Antonia Johnson

#### NATIVE STUDIES

Jake Archie

#### NURSING

Jenna Parsonage

#### PHARMACY

Nicholas Boon  
Sarah Zhao

#### FACULTÉ SAINT-JEAN

Raphael Lepage Fortin

#### SCIENCE

Deep Brar  
Kim Ferguson  
Tom L'Abbé  
Doug Cheung  
Wei Qiang  
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VOTE 18 & 19 MARCH 2010

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GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

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#### ARTS

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Petros Kusmu

#### BUSINESS

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#### SCIENCE

Tom L'Abbé  
Mathew Palakkamanil  
Dustin Chelen  
Andy Cheema  
Matthew Li  
Michael Prefontaine  
Ethan Dorward  
Doug Cheung

The Deadline to register as a candidate for Students' Council or General Faculties Council (GFC) has been extended to **Thursday, March 11 @ 5:00 pm** for the following positions:

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#### ARTS (GFC)

#### BUSINESS (GFC)

#### EDUCATION (STUDENTS' COUNCIL & GFC)

#### ENGINEERING (STUDENTS' COUNCIL & GFC)

#### MEDICINE & DENTISTRY (GFC)

#### NATIVE STUDIES (GFC)

#### NURSING (GFC)

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# Jaffer’s gaffe must be recognized



TYLER  
DAWSON

Last September, former Conservative Member of Parliament Rahim Jaffer was pulled over for driving nearly double the 50 km/h speed limit in Palgrave, Ontario. He has since pleaded guilty to “careless driving,” and has been ordered to pay a \$500 fine for his transgressions in the ruling by an Ontario judge. The charges of “excessive blood alcohol while driving” and cocaine possession that were initially laid against him were dropped by the prosecution.

When he was pulled over on the morning of September 11, the constable administered a breathalyzer test for alcohol, which Jaffer failed. He was then held for four hours by police, and tested twice more — he failed both times. He was also charged with possession of cocaine, which police said they found in his vehicle.

Let’s look at this for a moment. Jaffer failed three breathalyzer tests over four hours, yet apparently there were issues with prosecuting the case. How the defence refuted a charge based upon multiple and repeated quantitative testing of the amount of alcohol in Jaffer’s system is beyond me — if you have over 80 milligrams of blood in 100 millilitres of blood, then you fail the test, which means you face consequences. Instead, Jaffer had these

charges dropped in exchange for his admission of guilt for careless driving in a blatant case of shameless plea-bargaining.

Driving drunk is *not* the same as careless driving, and should never be treated as such. It’s a crime, and a dangerous offence that needs to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, regardless of the social status or public image of the transgressor. That Mr. Jaffer got off without any sort of meaningful punishment is a travesty of justice, and a sad example of a legal double standard.

**This is a fine example of how the justice system turns a blind eye to the actions of wealthy and important people.**

Now, conceptually, I admit I’m in favour of total legalization of drugs (I’m actually even opposed to standardized blood alcohol testing). But at present, there are laws that deal with serious offences, and as much as I disagree with their conceptual framework, I recognize their authority over behaviour on issues that are seriously dangerous — like drunk driving. And despite my personal opposition, the fact of the matter is if these laws are going to be applied to Canadians, then they must be applied equally, and without consideration of social status. This has not happened in

this instance.

On the subject of his alleged cocaine possession, the fact that Jaffer managed to avoid a charge here indicates that there was reason to suspect that the substance found in his car was *not* cocaine. It seems unlikely to me that police screwed this up; they would have been able to easily verify that the substance in Jaffer’s car was, in fact, cocaine before they laid charges. So, the question is, how on earth did Jaffer (a former crusader for harsher drug sentences) manage to avoid indictment for possession if not by a distortion of justice?

This is a fine example of how the justice system turns a blind eye to the actions of wealthy and important people. Indeed, that Crown prosecutor Marie Balogh refused to elaborate on her reasoning for dropping the charges beyond citing “legal issues” is cause for serious concern in the integrity of this judicial process. People are found guilty of impaired driving and drug possession all the time, so why did the prosecution make a mistake here that set Jaffer free?

This is a coincidence that is simply too good to be true. That the repeated evidence of impaired driving, and charges of cocaine possession were dismissed by the court is legally confounding. There is no logical reason why Rahim Jaffer should have escaped the scrutiny of the law, and more importantly, there has been no good legal reasoning as to why this occurred. It’s a shame that this disgraced public figure cannot be pilloried in front of Canadians, but at least he isn’t in office anymore. And hopefully he’ll stay off the road as well.

# Mourning Woods’ actions isn’t up to par

Athletes and politicians aren’t magically more moral than the rest of us, so it’s time we stopped acting like their star power actually means something



ANDREW  
DOUGLAS

In the recent wake of adulterous behaviour amongst public figures, certainly Tiger Woods’ infidelities seemed to rise above the rest, garnering an enormous display of media attention that is still lingering. However, it’s hard to pin down exactly why this is the case.

Currently, after the events regarding his sombre and frankly mundane public apology for his actions on February 20, Woods will undoubtedly return to being the biggest name in golf, and arguably the biggest name in sports, period. Essentially, these infidelities will be brushed under the mat, and will eventually fade away into the recesses of news history. However, in the course of being unfaithful, Woods has brought unprecedented attention to himself. People who didn’t watch golf or only heard about him when he won another trophy suddenly saw his face plastered all over the 24-hour news networks.

Certainly Woods’ actions were by no means meagre, but in comparison with possibly fathering a love child like John Edwards, or disappearing while supposedly on the Appalachian trail and instead meeting up with a Venezuelan mistress like former Governor of South Carolina Mark Sanford, Woods fails to meet the bar

of not being able to keep it in his pants. A simple affair? That’s child’s play. So why should Woods receive such unfaltering attention in the media? Certainly the average person has no real vested interest in Woods’ personal affairs, and he’s not directly accountable to the general public in the same manner as politicians.

Although most people would say that Woods’ adultery is an issue for him and his wife only, in order for so much of the media to broadcast it or make it a front page story, someone had to care a lot about it. This raises the issue that we are somehow — perhaps even subconsciously — concerned with the fidelity of celebrities to an almost obsessive level.

Our addiction to celebrity extramarital affairs certainly seems to stem from a political context and is not by any means a new phenomena. However, in the early years of these affairs, they were often swept aside in light of the social norms of the time. For example, it’s common knowledge that JFK and Marilyn Monroe did more than discuss public policy in the Oval Office. But, due to the social constraints of the time, adultery was not an acceptable thing to discuss in the mainstream media. What changed?

Perhaps the keystone event that shifted public interest towards the actions of politicians outside the office was the Watergate scandal. Suddenly, people began to have a vested interest in what politicians did when they weren’t engaged in governmental issues. Throughout the successive decades, the number of “tough on crime” and

“family values” moral zealots also rose to unprecedented levels. These zealots combined with the media to create the perfect firestorm during the Clinton administration surrounding his subsequent impeachment.

At that point, lying to the public about sexual relations became the terrible sin that no politician could come back from without serious damage control. Therefore, the new norm of political candidates became one of moral loftiness. This apex of morality was transferred to sport through things like compulsory drug testing, and investigations of cheating to check for “athletic integrity.” This created an indelible impression with the public that since players were accountable on the field, they should obviously be accountable off the field. Which leads us to where we are today, when a marital affair attracts the attention of what seems like every sporting media outlet in the Western hemisphere.

The higher standards of morality established by political candidates and transferred to sports are the real reason we care so much about Woods’ infidelities. The man never claimed to be a Superman of morality, but we just naturally assumed that he was, given his on-the-green persona. Granted, he probably wouldn’t have been so successful had he come out and said that he was likely to cheat on his wife (although he may have gotten some serious endorsements from Ashley Madison). What the public and the media need to realize is that politicians and athletes are not necessarily more ethical than the average person and should not be treated as such.

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## BABY ISAIAH MAY: Decision-making when parents and health care providers disagree about a child’s treatment



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*Osgoode Hall Law School*

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# Fort Chipewyan:

## CANCER AND CONTROVERSY

Written by Alexandria Eldridge  
and Robert Frigon

For over a decade, residents of Fort Chipewyan have been asking the government to investigate the cause of increased rates of cancer and other health problems in their community.

Populated by a little over 1,000 residents, the area is located 700 km north of Edmonton and is situated on Lake Athabasca, downstream from major oilsands development. There are no permanent roads leading into community; visitors must fly in during the summer and can access the community by ice road in the winter.

In February 2009, Alberta Health Services released a study stating that cancer rates were 30 per cent higher than expected in the community and that the situation required further research. The cause of the elevated cancer rates is still unconfirmed, and government critics say that no substantive follow-up action to determine a cause has been initiated.



### THE PLAYERS

**Dr. Andre Corriveau** is the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province of Alberta. Dr. Corriveau is part of the committee responsible for advising the Nunee Health Authority on the next steps they can take to determine the cause of elevated cancer rates.

**Dr. Preston McEachern** is the Section Head of Science, Research, and Innovation for Alberta Environment. Dr. McEachern is an adjunct professor in renewable resources at the University of Alberta and has been involved in conversations about Fort Chipewyan on behalf of the provincial government.

**Stand With Fort Chipewyan** is a student group at the University of Alberta that was started by a group of political science students in 2009. The purpose of the group is to raise awareness and facilitate discussion about the health concerns in Fort Chipewyan. Two of the board members, Richie Assaly and Avnish Nanda (top right), spoke with the Gateway regarding their group's take on the issue.

**Dr. David Schindler** (bottom) was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and is most famous for regulating the use of phosphates in fertilizers and detergents. Dr. Schindler is now a professor of zoology at the University of Alberta. In 2009, he co-authored a study on the environmental effects of the oilsands on the Athabasca River and its tributaries.

**Suncor Energy** is an international corporation that was the first company to develop the Alberta oilsands. They are now one of the largest suppliers of oil to Canada and the United States. The company has stated that they are committed to investing in renewable resources and responsible development.

**The Nunee Health Authority** is responsible for representing the health needs of Fort Chipewyan residents to the government. Steve Courtoreille, chairperson of the Nunee Health Board and Councillor for the Mikisew Cree First Nation, spoke with the Gateway about the communities concerned.

PHOTOS BY CYRIL BALUTBIT, SUNCOR.COM, AND WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



### THE HISTORY OF FORT CHIPEWYAN

- 1788: The Northwest Company establishes the Fort Chipewyan trading post on Lake Athabasca.
- 1967: A company called Great Canadian Oilsands, now known as Suncor, begins the first excavation of the oilsands in northern Alberta.
- 2000: The Alberta government establishes the Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program to monitor the impact of the oilsands on regional lakes and rivers.
- 2005: A five-year peer review of RAMP is released, stating that serious revisions are needed to the program.
- March 2006: Dr. John O'Connor requests that Health Canada investigate the causes of the high cancer rates he has observed in Fort Chipewyan.
- July 2006: Alberta Health releases a health analysis stating that cancer rates are not elevated to abnormal levels.
- July 2006: Dr. Yiqen Chen, an Alberta Health Services scientist, admits that incomplete data was used in the original health analysis.



**“Cancer is not a homogeneous disease. Every form of cancer has a different cause. With colorectal cancer, it’s usually a genetic condition or a dietary factor that influences those. So we can’t just look at the total number of cancers, but look at it by types — which ones might, even theoretically, be related to hydrocarbon exposure versus other forms of exposure.”**

—Dr. Andre Corriveau

Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province of Alberta

## THE EFFECTS FOR US

Fort Chipewyan is a diverse community of predominantly Aboriginal residents from five different bands including Cree, Chipewyan, and Métis. Many of the residents are employed in industries related to the oilsands. However, other residents maintain a more traditional lifestyle of hunting and gathering, interacting closely with their environment.

In February 2009, an Alberta Health Services study found 51 cases of cancer over a 12-year period. Dr. Andre Corriveau, Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer explained that this is more than was expected in a community the size of Fort Chipewyan.

“The numbers of cancer cases in the community were higher than you would’ve predicted using the statistical model that the Alberta Cancer Board was using to try to predict for a similar-sized Aboriginal community. The model predicted 39 — there were 51 cases,” Corriveau said.

However, the cause of the elevated cancer rates is not addressed by this study.

“At this point, we couldn’t say whether this was a random event that numbers were higher for that period than they might have been,” Corriveau said. “Or, whether it was caused by increased detection, or it could be real. So there are three possibilities and only further studies and monitoring will help us to sort out that situation.”

Corriveau also stated that the complexity of cancer as a disease makes it even more difficult to determine a direct cause to the increased rate.

“Cancer is not a homogeneous disease. Every form of cancer has a different cause. With colorectal cancer, it’s usually a genetic condition or a dietary factor that influences those. So we can’t just look at the total number of cancers, but look at it by types — which ones might,

even theoretically, be related to hydrocarbon exposure versus other forms of exposure,” he said.

Looking at such a complex issue isn’t going to be easy or quick, Corriveau explained.

“It’s only by going into that level of detail and monitoring over a long time that we will be able to ascertain whether this cluster is just a random event, or something that is meaningful. Even if it is meaningful, what actually are the root causes of it?”

Avnish Nanda from the Stand With Fort Chipewyan student group feels the government has been dragging their feet on conducting further studies. The group is trying to mobilize people to force government action.

“Right now, there seems to be a lot of evidence indicating that we need to do further studies. We need to find out exactly what is going on, but there isn’t political will to do it. So we’re trying to bridge that gap,” Nanda said.

Richie Assaly, another SWFC board member, added that because of the community’s concerns around the issue, it is important that action is taken soon.

“There is a concerned community, and when you don’t know the cause of an issue, the proper and responsible thing to do is to figure it out — to solve that mystery.”

SWFC feels that their group has been quite successful in raising awareness. They helped students send over 500 letters to their MLAs and have held events where community members have spoken about the issue.

The one major request of the community has been for an independent baseline study, which would measure the health of residents over a period of time. Corriveau said that a physician committee containing locals and experts has begun to advise the Nunee Health Board on the

next phase of investigation.

“We had a meeting on February 26 with the committee and, right now, we’re exploring different options to move forward in that regard, to conduct further studies. But it will be a committee-led process,” he said.

One new thing that the committee may bring in to help with the research is bio-monitoring.

“We’re looking at the possibility of doing bio-monitoring—measuring contaminants in people and assessing how much of those contaminants might have been ingested by individuals,” Corriveau explained.

Although the Nunee Health Board is funded from several different streams, including the federal government, any future studies would be their project.

“It would be their final call in terms of the choice of contractors; we would just be a collaborator in the whole study that would be put to review, and basically following up on the recommendations of the Alberta Cancer Board report,” Corriveau said.

Steve Courtoreille, chair of the Nunee Health Board, said that nothing had been decided yet in regards to future plan.

“On the doctor’s part, they’ve been reviewing,” he said. “We’re going to figure out what the cost is going to be before anyone makes any real commitment.”

Courtoreille also said that the community is not involved at this point.

“It’s something that hasn’t been brought to the community yet. Once the recommendations have been made, it will, but we’re still a bit of a ways from that.”

Suncor Energy declined an interview with the Gateway, but spokesman Dany Laferrière stated in an email that they encourage more studies in the Fort Chipewyan area.

“Suncor encourages further, long-term testing and health studies in the region, and will co-operate in whatever way necessary.”

Suncor also said that they have been in the region for many years and are committed to responsible operations.

“We have a vested interest in addressing the environmental and social concerns that determine our long-term license to operate, and we intend to continue doing just that.”

Courtoreille added that although the community may seem quiet, they are still extremely concerned with moving forward.

“The community may be quiet at this point in time, but the concern is still there. We’re still losing people. Being a small community, people share information with each other and it will always be a big concern for all of us until we get to the bottom of this and find out what’s causing it.”

The Alberta government made some statements to the media in recent months that Fort Chipewyan was not a special case, and Courtoreille said that this makes the community distrust them even more.

“It seems like it’s a lot of time. The community doesn’t really trust the government. We want to know if they’re serious about working with us. If not, why are we still at the table?”

Courtoreille also added that there are some other parties that will potentially be involved in Fort Chipewyan’s future, but he couldn’t give details at this time.

Regardless of whether or not the government or a private party moves forward on a study, Fort Chipewyan residents may not have answers to their questions for quite some time, as a baseline health study can take years to complete. Meanwhile, they can only speculate about the causes of the health concerns.

(Continued on page 12)

September 2006: Residents request a baseline health study to track changes to the health of residents over time.

2007: The Timoney Report on the quality of the water in the Athabasca River, shows increased toxins in the water. The report is an independent study funded by the Nunee Health Authority and completed by Kevin Timoney.

May 2008: The Government of Alberta announces that it will embark on a comprehensive review of cancer rates.

November 2008: Before the study is released, the community and the Nunee Health Board say that they will not accept the government study because the community has not been consulted.

February 2009: Alberta Health Services releases a report entitled “Cancer Incidence in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta: 1995-2006.” The conclusion of the report states that cancer rates are higher than expected and the situation requires follow-up.

October 2009: Dr. Schindler co-authors the study “Oilsands development contributes polycyclic aromatic compounds to the Athabasca River and its tributaries.” The study finds an increased amount of carcinogenic PACs in the ecosystem.



## THE EFFECTS AROUND US

Many environmental groups suggest that the health problems in Fort Chipewyan are directly related to the oilsands and the effects of industrial development on the environment.

The oilsands are a major project and affect entire ecosystems. Government, industry, and multi-stakeholder programs are responsible for measuring the effects of the oilsands on all areas of the environment.

The primary responsibility for environmental monitoring falls to industry. Under the Environmental Enhancement and Protection Act, oil companies are required by law to monitor the impacts of their projects at their sites, upstream and downstream. Suncor, one of the largest companies, has various procedures for monitoring their impact on air quality, water, and land. To lessen the effect of their activity on the water resources, one thing Suncor tries to do is reduce and reuse water.

"Although our water withdrawal from the Athabasca is currently less than 0.3 per cent of the river's flow, we're making concerted efforts to use less water," Laferrière wrote. "Under normal conditions, about 75 per cent of the water Suncor uses at its oilsands mining operations is recycled."

Suncor is also an active participant in the Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program, the government's multi-stakeholder monitoring program for water. RAMP includes representation from Aboriginal groups, Environment Canada, Alberta Environment, and local industry.

Laferrière described the findings of RAMP, which state that industry effect on the Athabasca River is minimal.

"RAMP thoroughly measures water quality from monitoring stations upstream and downstream of oilsands activity, and has detected no impacts to the Athabasca River ecosystem due to oilsands production," he wrote.

Dr. Preston McEachern, Section Head for Research, Science, and Innovation with Alberta Environment said that although the polycyclic aromatic compounds in the soil are carcinogenic, they are naturally occurring.

"We're talking about hydrocarbons that are there naturally, because the Athabasca River and its tributaries in that region cut through the oilsands formation and erode it," he said.

McEachern added that due to the properties of these hydrocarbons, they are found in the soil, and not in water.

"Because of their chemical characteristics, they preferentially bond to soils, so they tend not to be in solution in the river. They move as sediment-bound particles and deposit, to some degree, down in the delta."

But even these deposits will not affect the

health of nearby residents because they don't enter the food chain, according to McEachern.

"They have very low accumulation rates in mammalian cells. Because they're organic, they tend to break down and be metabolized," he said.

In that respect, McEachern said it would be very difficult for these hydrocarbons to cause increased rates of cancer.

"You'd have to go down to the Athabasca delta and eat a bowl full of sediment every day to get the same exposure as smoking a half a pack of cigarettes. You'd actually have to eat the dirt — a vast quantity of dirt — because it's not in the water."

Dr. David Schindler, a zoology professor at the University of Alberta, disagrees that the pollutants are natural, and co-authored a report entitled "Oilsands development contributes polycyclic aromatic compounds to the Athabasca River and

accumulate. We took cores of snow and melted them down, and filtered them, and looked at the pollutants in the snow as well. We found that the airborne pathway was huge," he said.

However, McEachern says that because the Schindler report only took samples in winter and summer, their conclusion regarding the snow pack is not accurate. The evidence shows that as erosion increases during the melt, the hydrocarbon amounts slightly increase.

"We've been doing the same study on a monthly basis. What we do see is a steady increase from exceedingly low, to low — we're talking about parts per trillion — but it increases through the summer as temperatures increase, so that's consistent with this whole erosion hypothesis."

Schindler maintained that, regardless of the interpretation of the data, the data itself shows that the RAMP method isn't adequate.

**"You'd have to go down to the Athabasca delta and eat a bowl full of sediment every day to get the same exposure as smoking a half a pack of cigarettes. You'd actually have to eat the dirt — a vast quantity of dirt — because it's not in the water."**

— Dr. Preston McEachern,

Section Head of Science, Research, and Innovation for Alberta Environment

its tributaries."

In the study, Schindler and his team sampled over 30 stations on the Athabasca River and tributaries, whereas RAMP only samples 11 stations.

"We very carefully sampled upstream of the McMurray formation and then upstream of the industrial development, so it would be just exposed to the McMurray formation, and then below, at the tributary mouths and the mainstream Athabasca below the industry development."

The report found that there was one site where PAC levels were within the range that is toxic to fish. They were unable to conclude on the possibility of contaminated groundwater because of the high variation in water levels during different seasons.

"And in almost every case, and for almost every pollutant, you could see in some cases, a little bit of an increase when you got into the McMurray formation," Schindler said.

Schindler also found some interesting evidence of airborne pathogens, evident in the snow.

"We sampled the snow pack in 2008 about this time of year, when we had four months of snow

"They really haven't designed their study in such a way to deliberately test whether the industry is causing the high concentration or not."

Schindler suspects that one of the problems with RAMP could be the rapid turnover of staff and inconsistency of monitoring.

"They changed the locations of where they sample, they changed the times that they sample, some things they sample for once a year. They changed the people who do the analyses without proper inter-calibration. All those are total violations of how you would run a long-term monitoring program, so it's a terrible program, to put it bluntly."

From the industry's perspective, Suncor has partnered with the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association to prevent air pollution.

"We've made a lot of progress on this front. We've invested in technologies, improved energy efficiency, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 45 per cent compared to 1990 level," Laferrière wrote.

However, Schindler doesn't feel that all of industry has been as diligent in monitoring air quality.

"In industry's case, for example, they did

sample airborne contaminants, but in 1979 and 1981. They haven't done it since, even though they found substantial evidence of contamination there."

Schindler speculated that the lack of attention to air pollution could have economic implications.

"I think what happened is they cut off the program when the price of oil was really low, but they didn't reinstate it when the good times came back. In the government's case, they simply don't have enough money to do a good monitoring program," he said.

McEachern took issue with the critique of RAMP. He says that the program is independently reviewed every five years, and peer reviewed annually. He also stated that RAMP is not designed to monitor air or to be fully comprehensive in monitoring water.

"There's a perception that's out there that RAMP's the only monitoring that occurs in the oilsands, and that's absolutely not the truth," he said. "We go out and do our own monitoring as basically a back-check on what industry reports to us as part of that approvals, license to operate process."

The impact of industry in the Fort Chipewyan area is clearly a contested issue, and research into the effects is ongoing for all stakeholders. However, for community members in Fort Chipewyan, they simply want to know the cause of their health problems so they can be addressed.

"Once we find that answer, what's causing the community's deteriorating health, then the community and Albertans as a whole can proceed to the question of what to do about it, if we found out that actually is industry-related," Nanda said.

Nanda says that there is a perception that many groups supporting Fort Chipewyan want the oilsands shut down, but that's not the issue.

"Most of that community derives its living from working in the oilsands and they have a lot of contracts with the companies, so it's really about studying and finding answers, not really about shutting down the oilsands."

However, it is also important to make sure that development does not come at the expense of fellow Albertans, says Nanda.

"A lot of the development policy that's been going on in Alberta has been justified in our names, the next generation. We need unabated oilsands development because it's the best way to grow our economy," he said.

"I don't think that it should be on the back of Alberta citizens, with all these health problems being caused as a result. We need to do proper studies, proper planning, before we expand our development."





social  
intercourse**Type Monkey Type**

With Canyon Rose Outfit and Frankie McQueen

Saturday, March 13 at 9 p.m.  
Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)  
\$12 at the door

Up-and-coming indie darlings Type Monkey Type are playing a show in celebration of Canyon Rose Outfit's album release. Fans of Rheostatics and Great Lake Swimmers may just discover their new favourite band. Full of weird jams and falsetto vocals, these guys play with a maturity that belies their age. Grab your hipster beard and head downtown. Watch out for flying poop!

**The Switchmen**

With the Shaela Miller Trio and mmmBerta

Thursday, March 11 at 8 p.m.  
Pawn Shop (10549-82 Ave.)  
\$/ at the door

One of the most exciting country-ish bands to come out of Edmonton were the energetic Uncas. Sean Brewer brings his love of off-beat twang to his latest band, The Switchmen. After a recent show at the Black Dog, they're back with friends to bring a little hillbilly roots to the Pawn Shop. The oddball cabaret that calls itself mmmBerta is sure to provide an exciting opening to a night of booze and bedlam. Extra credit for having the best gig poster I've seen in a long while. Would someone steal me one of these? I always tear them.

**Lee Aaron**

With Prism

Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m.  
Century Casino (13103 Fort Road)  
\$34.95 at www.centurycasino.com

I assume the only possible reason that you'd not be attending the return of the mighty SNFU would be that you're rocking out to some classic Canadian rock 'n' roll. Of course, unless you are Terry or Dean, you probably don't remember "Metal Queen," or "Sex With Love." But hey, empty a bottle of hairspray onto your head, slap on a little makeup fellas, and pretend that Mötley Crüe were ever honestly a good band.

**Changing Our Ideas About Progress**

Saturday, March 13 at 1 p.m.  
Steeps Tea Lounge (11116 Whyte Ave.)  
Merchants Tea and Coffee House  
(4857-50 St., Camrose)  
Friday, March 12, 8:30-10 a.m.  
www.augustana.ualberta.ca/ronning

The Chester Ronning Centre hosts this discussion for the Study of Religion & Public Life. It is animated by Dittmar Mundel, an excellent professor from Augustana faculty. Discussions reflect upon the meaning of progress in our lives. Often Augustana gets forgotten by those who attend our main campus, but as a former student there, I remember a close-knit campus with a zest for higher learning that sometimes seems to be lost among the bustling lives in the big city. I often find myself in Steeps, and have come to love the little tea house. Merchants used to welcome our campus writer's group with open arms and provided delicious snacks and unparalleled coffee creations. Take a little time to remember that you are pursuing a higher education, not just a busy social life. Enjoy a refreshing tea at a free event.

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
International Man of Waffles

## Brent Randall and Kate Maki head west

Randall shares his distaste with modern music, while Maki dishes on the life of a substitute teacher



## musicpreview

**Brent Randall and his Pinecones**

With Kate Maki

Sunday, March 14 at 7 p.m.  
The ARTery (9535 Jasper Ave.)  
\$10 at the door

SIMON YACKULIC  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

This weekend, two acts will be hitting the ARTery in an attempt to steal their audience's hearts away to a more stripped-down place and a simpler time. The opening band, Brent Randall and his Pinecones, sounds like something you'd expect from an obscure, forgotten record of three or four decades past. Yet Randall — who actually just released his newest recording *Sage* in January — is comfortable with keeping his sound distinctly retro.

"I don't like any modern music really," Randall explains. "I like some, but on the whole, the modern world, I just kind of despise everything. I just try to do things that I like."

"I always grew up listening to older music. I lived without TV and radio; so it's all that I've really been into. So it's not really intentional. It's just the music I deal with and can relate to. So that's the stuff that comes out when we get together and do music."

Despite this attachment to the past and aversion to anything modern, Randall was an avid Olympic fan this time around. Apparently some things in the modern world still have the magic of Randall's lost era.

"Once they were actually around, I was kinda digging it," Randall says with excitement. "It's

weird how it brings out the patriotism. It's the only time I really get patriotic, I guess. I enjoyed it, you know, it's a nice break from all the nonsense — the reality shows."

Tour mate Kate Maki's latest music is harder to pin down to a certain era. The withdrawn, mellow, and uncluttered sound seems timeless in the sense that it could comfortably reach listeners from the 1940s to today. She describes her newest release as "more of a loner record, listening when you're on a solo mission driving somewhere or in your headphones, kind of moody and pretty raw." Yet even with the different sound, Maki and Randall's albums nicely complement one another.

**"I don't like any modern music really. I like some, but on the whole, the modern world, I just kind of despise everything. I just try to do things that I like."**

BRENT RANDALL  
ON HIS MUSICAL TASTES

"I've known Brent since I first started — oh jeez, it's been seven or eight years now," Maki says. "He's just a fantastic piano person and a great person to travel with. And I think it's a good fit, the two of us, just a balance of one man and one female, it makes for a good show. We have the same influences in some cases, so I think it works together, it complements. It's not like death metal and rap in the same night. Both of us have lots of '60s and '70s influences," she says.

"She actually lives just around the corner from me, so we were playing and she was talking about

doing another tour; and it just came together like that," Randall adds. "We just put our heads together and decided to head west."

When I reached Maki, she was cruising down a highway in Ontario. When she's not lighting up the ARTery and similar venues across the country, she holds down an equally demanding gig as a substitute teacher. She spilled the goods on leading this double life as she headed to the classroom she instructs the next day in Sudbury.

"I like both lifestyles, and I found a way to balance both. In the beginning, teaching full-time, I didn't have any time for music; and then playing music full-time, I didn't have any time for teaching," Maki reflects. "Now I do both. I'm a substitute teacher, so when I'm not touring, I still get to be involved in education. I like a bit of both, a bit of variety, and I think they both help each other."

While Maki might be tempted to pull a Jack Black and lead the kids with her guitar, she explains that only some of her classes are engaged by her other talents. Maki claims that though she's "just a little shy when the kids are older." When she's dealing with younger classes, she'll often bring music to the forefront.

"When they're younger, it's great. They'll sing with all their lungs and heart, they're not shy."

Neither Maki or Randall are shy when they hit the stage. Randall was excited for the chance to experiment with his live performance this tour, and promised an engaging show when his set reached Edmonton.

"It'll be a bit more stripped back than usual. But I think that might be kind of fun. It might allow the melodies of the songs to come forward a bit more. So I think it'll be kind of interesting and allow us to fool around with some different arrangements."



# Oh, Canada: celebrating artists north of the 49th parallel



In honour of Canadian Music Week and the musicians that call the Great White North home, ten Gateways share which Canuck artists make them roll their car windows down, sing them to sleep at night, make them want to start a band, and are on constant rotation on their iPods.

## Neil Young by Elliot Goodine

When it comes to the greatest of the great Canadian artists, no one can match the brilliance of Neil Young. His recent performance of "Long May You Run" at the Olympic closing ceremonies proved that at 64 years old, he remains an incredible artist. Young made a trek through Alberta last year, and anyone who saw him knows that he's not just keeping up with a new generation of rock bands — he's blowing them out of the water.

His greatness isn't, however, a matter of longevity. Consider one of my favourite songs of his, "Cinnamon Girl." This song features a *one-note* guitar solo, yet Young still manages to best any heavy metal thrasher who tries to outshred him. Young simply has more soul in one finger than some bands have in their entire lineup.

Besides the fact that he basically invented grunge, Young's quieter songs are also small miracles. "Old Man," "Harvest Moon," and "After The Goldrush" display Young's unique falsetto, and his unmistakable sense of melody. His acoustic work has a feel that evokes the Canadian prairies — "Helpless" serves as proof that Young grew up in Winnipeg.

Young, as a Canadian, is also the nemesis of Lynyrd Skynyrd. "Southern Man" and "Alabama" are scathing critiques of racism, whereas "Sweet Home Alabama" is just kind of dumb. I hope Neil Young will remember that he's the best Canuck around.

## Japandroids by Matt Hirji

When I was a child, my best friend Billy and I decided that when we grew up, we'd form a band together. I dreamed of jamming with my buddies, making ear-splittingly loud music in the process.

We were going to be rock stars.

I never learned to play the guitar. As a result, for my entire adolescence, I've been forced to live vicariously through artists living my childhood dream. While listening to bands like Minutemen or Broken Social Scene, I often find myself daydreaming about what it'd be like to play in a band with my best friends.

Vancouver's Japandroids create the kind of music that I dreamed of making back then. The album cover of their debut release *Post-Nothing* depicts the duo, who formed a friendship while attending the University of Victoria together, happily standing next to each other, hugging.

The Japandroids' sound is reflective of the band's insouciant attitude towards the production of music. "We'll stick together forever," lead singer Brian King exclaims over a hazy guitar melody in *Crazy/Forever*, asserting that what really matters in life is having good friends and a positive outlook.

## Matthew Good by Alix Kemp

I was 14 the first time I heard Matthew Good, and interestingly, it was actually an American friend of mine who first sent me the MP3 of "A Boy And His Machine Gun," off Matthew Good Band's *Beautiful Midnight*. I was hooked, and through the many twists and turns of my musical tastes (I went through a year-long phase where I listened to almost nothing but Stabbing Westward), Matt Good has remained a reliable constant.

He's known for being kind of a dick; MGB's merch once included a bumper sticker that said "I hear Matt Good's a real asshole." I suspect the reputation stems from his political leanings, his unapologetically opinionated attitude, and his brutal honesty. Nickelback's lead singer Chad Kroeger once gave an interview about how much he wanted to beat the shit out of him, which makes me like Good even more.

Good's been making music in one form or another since 1992, and after 18 years, he has yet to put out an album I don't enjoy. That's pretty impressive for a guy who initially played upside down because he couldn't figure out how to hold the guitar.

## Ian Tyson by Dustin Blumhagen

Like most kids, when I was growing up, I longed for summer holidays to arrive. But unlike most kids, I looked forward to rodeo, riding horses, and travelling through the majestic Rocky Mountains. I

remember riding in my dad's beat-up pickup truck, rolling across the prairies with a camper on the box and a horse trailer in tow. We were headed for the mountains where we would load up the horses and head out into the back-country, braving the wilds of western Alberta. The long drive would be accompanied by dusty cassettes of songs that we could relate to: Songs about Alberta, riding horses, and working with cattle. There were songs about coyotes and magpies, mixed with songs about heroes like the artist Charles Russell and outlaws like Claude Dallas.

Tyson's silky smooth voice seemed to fit perfectly with the life of a cowboy. On a hot summer day, when we were down in the river valley, fixing the barbed wire fence around the pasture, with flies buzzing around and sweat dripping, the only thing that could compete with his voice coming from the truck's speakers a half mile away was a cold root beer. Now, amidst the cacophony of the city, his music provides me with additional comfort. His words represent memories of a simpler life and an innocence lost.

## Joel Plaskett by Madeline Smith

Nova Scotia's Joel Plaskett is one of the most highly prized gems of the Canadian music scene. Whether he records solo or with his band The Emergency, Plaskett's songs are always laced with unstoppable hooks and poetic, witty lyrics. It's hard to do much better than music that is not only unbelievably catchy, but wickedly intelligent.

Plaskett's previous work has given us songs like the hilarious "Fashionable People," a song so well-loved that a group of people in my high school got together to make up and perform a dance to it in our annual talent show. But it's Plaskett's most recent album, *Three*, that is nothing less than a work of genius. As the name implies, *Three* is a triple album comprised of three nine-song discs. Most of the song titles reflect this theme, too, consisting of a single word repeated three times which is then worked into the lyrics as well. Every facet of Plaskett's work is meticulously considered and calculated; yet, somehow at the end of the day, it's still incredibly enjoyable. *Three* is one of those albums that you can listen to from start to finish without skipping a single song.

Joel Plaskett is the whole package: he's a criminally talented lyricist, a brilliant composer, and a charismatic performer. To top it all off, we get to claim him as one of our own, and he's certainly worth bragging about.





**Gorguts by Gabby Riches**

Hailing from Quebec, considered by many to be Canada's technical death-metal epicentre, Gorguts have made a name for themselves by offering death-metal fans a unique mix of pick-slides, dissonant harmonies, avant-garde brutality, and hard-to-fathom rhythms. Formed in 1989, Gorguts amazed metal fans with their 1991 debut album *Considered Dead*.

The band then decided to expand on their experimental and technical abilities with the release of their second album in 1993, *The Erosion of Sanity*. In the midst of the black metal explosion in 1993, Gorguts' second album received little recognition and the band went into hiatus for five years. As Gorguts fans wallowed for half a decade, the group finally emerged with a progressive sound and a brand new line-up. With the founding member Luc Lemay still leading the pack on vocals, Gorguts redefined their image with a new group of tech-death aficionados.

Gorguts proclaimed their legacy with their release of *Obscura*, which is considered the most important technical death-metal album of all-time. Since their last release *From Wisdom to Hate* in 2001, Gorguts has remained on the peripheries, but will be making an exclusive appearance at this year's Maryland Deathfest. Gorguts have single-handedly redefined and challenged the boundaries of technical death-metal. They've paved the way for other notable technical acts such as Martyr, Quo Vadis, Neuraxis, and Cryptopsy who are all actively proving that Quebec is the most deafening province in Canada.

**Sass Jordan by Jane Voloboeva**

A Montreal-raised lass, Sass Jordan started her solo career in the mid-80s, but played in many bands before that. Jordan made her way into the big leagues in the rock genre with the likes of Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, Cheap Trick, Van Halen, Carlos Santana, and Joe Cocker. She was open to working with anyone, and she definitely made her way around the rock scene as a youngster.

With age came responsibilities, and not all pleasant ones, as it turned out. She experienced some dramatic changes including moving to Los Angeles, firing her manager, weathering deaths of close friends, and finally, experiencing a financial crisis. All of that changed when she met her future husband Derek Sharp. The sweet end of the lollipop was hers yet again as she moved away from L.A. to a farmhouse in Ontario, a truly Canadian move.

After giving birth to her daughter Stella, Jordan almost went through a rebirth of her own. She adventurously strayed from music to perform in off-Broadway shows and *The Vagina Monologues*. In 2003, however, she returned faithfully to her biggest love of all — music — when she became a *Canadian Idol* judge and toured with AC/DC and The Rolling Stones. Having made it through tough times in her life, Sass Jordan helped others make it through difficult times as well by partaking in the infamous SARS concert in Toronto, showing the world that there was still plenty of sass left in this lady.

**Vulgaires Machins by Simon Yackulic**

Vulgaires Machins is the best contemporary Canadian band — and you've probably never even heard of them. In fact, since you're reading this paper in English, chances are you wouldn't even understand most of what these French punk-rockers are saying, even if you do have the good fortune of hearing them.

Their lack of appearance at the Olympic closing ceremonies might be easily explained, as Vulgaires Machins' music leads you to imagine them as the type of people outside of the stadium protesting the commercialization of the Olympics instead of inside singing along to the chorus of Nickelback's "Burn it to the Ground." With their mix of hard, biting, politically-charged tracks and lighter introspective music, one might be tempted to think of Vulgaires Machins as a French-Canadian Rise Against.

However, this would be a mistake — if anything, Rise Against might pass itself off as a cheap English version of Vulgaires Machins. So if you want to listen to the gold medal punk band instead of the silver medal American alternative, stop whatever you're doing right now and go to YouTube and check out their songs "Compter les corps," followed by "Anéantir le dogme" or "Triple meurtre et suicide raté." You won't be disappointed — even if you're French comprehension level drops beyond counting *un à dix*.

**The Guess Who/BTO by Robert Frigon**

In 1965, the music genius of Burton Cummings and Randy Bachman graced the Canadian airwaves as *The Guess Who*. Though they started playing music 23 years before my birth, their music is still relevant even today in the canon of awesome Canadian rock 'n' roll. They were the Canadian Invasion, putting Canada on the rock map with hit songs like "American Woman" and "These Eyes."

My parents didn't have any Guess Who in the house, so when it came out in 1999, *The Guess Who Greatest Hits* was the first CD I ever bought. I still love this CD, and I am proud to say I own it. That same year, I received a Bachman Turner Overdrive CD. This was the band that Bachman formed after his separation from Cummings and they called the band Bachman Turner Overdrive because there were three Bachman brothers and one Turner in the band, and they all loved the trucking magazine *Overdrive*. This is a standard cool comment of mine whenever "Takin Care of Business" is played.

Between these two bands, there's an incredible amount of homegrown talent. Bachman and Cummings are the best Canadian musicians, and together make a very powerful duo. Their work together and apart has been praised, and they still fill houses with their new and old tunes.

**Rush by Aaron Yeo**

Rush. Need I say more? No, I don't need to, but I will anyway.

The unchanging trio of Alex Lifeson, Geddy Lee, and Neil Peart have been in the limelight for over three decades (a few hundred dog years), and have earned their right in Canadian music history. With hearts full of soul and bravado, each of them have been finding their way to the top in the world of music today. They've each made a name for themselves in everyday glory, so that none of them are ever referred to as "that guy from Rush."

As a band, they're decidedly Canadian, and have become both a national icon and the pride of the country. Their support spans at least half the world, and while the fanbase is predominantly male, the breadth of ages is huge. Ranging from greasy garage band teenagers to 50-year-old working men who were once in a band — but then got married — Rush have been making memories for their aficionados who are all proud to listen to YYZ for another 2,112 times.

While they may not be the most popular band in the spirit of radio, Rush have established their amazing body of work and caused permanent waves across the globe. They are Canada.

**Justin Bieber by Sarah Stead**

Bieber is the baby-faced, squeaky clean teen idol your tween sister is probably obsessed with. The thing is, just because I'm old enough to be his babysitter, doesn't mean I'm immune to Bieber Fever. I love you, Justin. Please call me (780-492-7052) and the world will have one less lonely girl.





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# Workman's new albums cover two food groups and a million emotions

## musicpreview

### Hawksley Workman

Sunday, March 14 at 8 p.m.  
Winspear Centre (9720-102 Ave.)  
\$34.50 at the Winspear box office

MADELINE SMITH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hawksley Workman's prolific music career spans over a decade, and the sounds of his unbelievable body of work both as a solo musician and a producer are never predictable. This year is particularly productive for Workman as he adds records *Milk* and *Meat* to his repertoire, bringing his grand total of studio albums to 12. Despite releasing two albums almost simultaneously, the way Workman sounds at any particular time continues to be impossible to anticipate.

The two records are somewhat thematically linked, but almost everything else about them is different, from the way they were initially conceived, to the way they sound, to the way they're being released to the public. While *Meat* has been available in its entirety since late January, the songs from *Milk* are still in the process of being freed single by single over the course of five months.

"The old industry model is over. Nobody really has the answer for selling music yet," Workman explains of the non-traditional release strategy, adding cryptically, "In the meantime, we might as well have some fun with the way we do things."

This isn't the first time Workman has experimented with different ways of getting his music out to the public. Before recently breaking with his longtime record label Universal Music, Workman resorted to selling excess recorded material at his concerts when his label got in the way of their formal release. Even after official changes on the business side of his musical ventures, though, Workman's approach to making



music hasn't been drastically altered.

"The human experience is all relationships," he says of his inspiration to write. "Booze, TV, people, pets, cars, guitars — all relationships. I find it all so fascinating. Humans are caught up in over-feeling themselves. We're all uncomplicated, tribal animals who need to relate."

*Milk* and *Meat*, in particular, deal specifically with romantic relationships, with the album titles both representing euphemisms for sexualized attitudes.

"When you're falling in love, 'milk' and 'meat' are pretty much all you think about. The world fades."

The concept of falling in love might seem

appealing and romantic, but Workman's take on it tends to be slightly darker. At times, both albums offer bitter, painful takes on love, although in completely different ways. Whereas *Meat* can sound brooding and vindictive, with crunchy electric guitars and wailing vocals, *Milk* is full of pop melodies and synthesized hooks.

"*Meat* was written almost entirely alone, and I played almost all the instruments," Workman says of his first release, explaining the primarily introspective sound of the album. "*Milk* was made by accident with a few friends. It started as an afterthought and became quite a strong piece of work."

As for plans for the future, he isn't sure where

inspiration will strike next, but the studio's call is constant and inescapable.

"I always have music playing in my head. I hear a record I like, and I instantly want to be in the studio making something new; the studio is a drug for me," he admits.

Workman has recently been particularly intrigued by brass bands and choral music, but his interests are constantly changing and his sound is continuously evolving. As his career progresses, the bottom line is always artistic expression: his sense of urgency to be crafting something new never fades.

"There is much to create," he says, confessing, "I fear sometimes that I'll run out of time."



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# Is Jay Baruchel out of your league?

After playing bit parts in big-name comedies, Baruchel is getting more screen time



## filmreview

**She's Out of My League**  
Directed by Jim Field Smith  
Starring Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve,  
Krysten Ritter, Mike Vogel, and Nate  
Torrence  
Opens March 12

EVAN MUDRYK  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Jay Baruchel and Nate Torrence, who co-star in *She's Out of My League*, have both made careers out of playing awkward nice guys who typically don't have much luck with the ladies. But Baruchel rightfully understands that he's still a movie star, and that no lady is ever truly beyond his grasp. He even goes as far to say that former co-star of *Popular Mechanics For Kids* Elisha Cuthbert isn't out of his league, calling her the "NHL's sloppy dozens" in response to my only question during a college conference call.

The Canadian-born star has risen in the Hollywood ranks in the past three years, appearing in Judd Apatow's *Knocked Up* and Ben Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*, in prominent, though supporting, roles. *She's Out of My League* will likely turn out to be his biggest role to date, which is already receiving positive buzz.

"I definitely think that there's the potential for it to be the kind of movie

people will tell their friends that they should watch [...] it might be the DVD kind of thing that gets passed around a lot. So, maybe a cult classic," Baruchel says of the film.

It's clear from talking with the actors that they've had a lot of fun making the film, improvising much of the dialogue, and adding their own personal touches to their characters. Director Jim Field Smith, whose previous feature films have lacked the exposure of their Hollywood counterparts, has roots in improv and sketch comedy, and was quick to encourage his actors to make their roles their own, sometimes in unconventional ways.

**"I really think that we have four sympathetic characters and, really, there's not a douche bag amongst us."**

JAY BARUCHEL  
ON THE CAST OF *SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE*

"Even with our lunch scene, we all got to choose what we thought our characters would eat, and that was one of the funniest things. Like T.J. [Miller], if you look on his knees, he has a plate of pizza and a plate of chicken McNuggets. And then I have everything zip-locked in a little bag," says Torrence, laughing.

Even though Smith championed

improvisation from his actors, Baruchel is quick to add that he doesn't "really give anyone much choice" in the matter.

"I'll ad-lib no matter what. Whether or not they use it is a whole different story," Baruchel says.

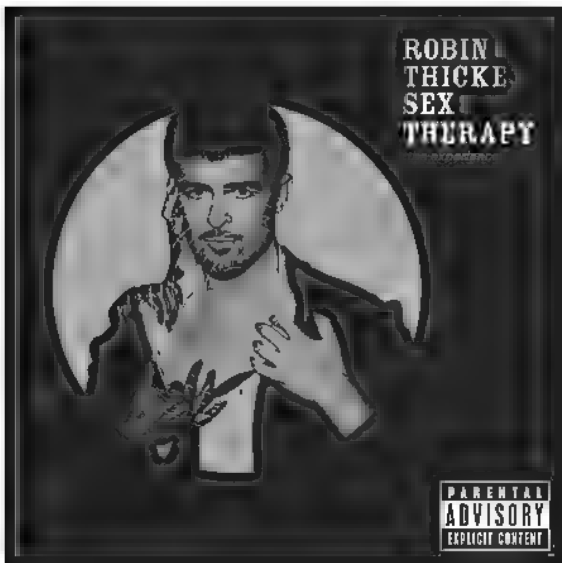
For Torrence, unlike his co-star, breaking into Hollywood wasn't as easy as being discovered by Judd Apatow. Appearing mostly in commercials, it was his work in the Capital One "No-hassle card" commercials, where he played sidekick to David Spade, which allowed him the exposure to start taking on bigger roles.

"It's been a long time coming. I've been out here [in Los Angeles] for about 10 years total, and it took me about three years to even be able to get an agent that would take me on for TV and film," says Torrence, who's since appeared in movies like *Get Smart* and *My Best Friend's Girl*.

*She's Out of My League* looks to be the *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* of this year, with a funny red-band trailer, and following the proven "hot-girl-dating-goofy-loser-guy" formula that should lend itself some degree of box office success. Baruchel believes that the film should appeal to audiences who have a heart for a sweet comedy with a British sense of humour.

"I really think that we have four sympathetic characters and, really, there's not a douche bag amongst us," he says.

Except for you, Baruchel. I'm still waiting for Elisha Cuthbert to call back and confirm.



## albumreview

**Robin Thicke**  
*Sex Therapy*  
Star Trak

MICHAEL O'NEILL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Robin Thicke has something for everyone on his newest album *Sex Therapy* — Timberlake-esque falsettos, gangsta speak, and for those who want to get to know him a little better, he offers up his "Mr. Big." But be warned: before you can dive into the sexy world of Thicke and his candy bar, you have to convince yourself that breaking through the shrink-wrap of an album plastered

with pictures of what looks like a pimp/shameless womanizer is safe. The decision to feature industry heavyweights like Jay-Z, Snoop Dogg, and Kid Cudi has made an otherwise run-of-the-mill R&B album stand out from the crowd. "Mei-plé" is an especially good romp. Thicke will take you on a journey through French culture, Jay-Z providing the "champagne spilling out of [his] out oui," and the feminine shrieks

and groans in the background leading one to believe the two hooligans must be having the Eurotrips of their lives. What on earth would Beyoncé think?

It must be noted that in spite of Mr. Thicke's roguishness, he's actually a gentleman, stating that "A lady don't lift things, open doors, stand alone" when she's with him. Now, as can be expected in any album of this sort, a few songs will never make it beyond a junior high-school dance, particularly "2 Luv Birds" and "Shakin' it for Daddy," which should be avoided at all costs.

If you're in the market to improve your Purity Test score, this album is dedicated to a Paula Patton, Thicke's sex therapist. Judging by this album, you'll never find anyone better, but even if you just listen to it, things are bound to get a little dirty.

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**WAGE:** \$10 / hour

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** contact Catherine Raitt: [ea@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:ea@su.ualberta.ca)

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# SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, march 11, 2010

## Hockey Bears, Bisons ready to collide for Canada West crown

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Editor

For only the second time, the Golden Bears and Manitoba Bisons will collide this weekend for the Canada West men's hockey championship, as the Bisons run into town looking to upset the number-one ranked team in the nation.

Manitoba enters the weekend fresh off a road series win a week ago in Saskatoon, where the Herd downed the Saskatchewan Huskies in three games to win their Canada West semi-final series.

**"It's to see who wins Canada West, but it's not a life and death situation. If you don't win, you can regroup — you've got a mulligan, and you go on, so if you don't win Canada West, you go on and try to win nationals."**

ERIC THURSTON  
BEARS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

The Bears on the other hand come into the championship series after sweeping provincial rival Calgary last weekend at Clare Drake Arena, in a series that featured a little bit of everything, including a line brawl in Friday night's affair.

For a Bears team that went 23-4-1 during the regular season, the Bisons enter the series as the lone team all season long to have beaten the Bears

twice, meaning the Green and Gold will have to be at their best if they hope to claim their 48th conference crown.

"We split with Manitoba there, we split with them here, and they're a good team that works very hard. If they get up on you, they can really shut things down," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said.

"They really played well in Saskatchewan winning 5-1 on the Sunday, and that's a credit to how good their team is."

With Canada West sending two representatives this season to the national tournament in Thunder Bay, the Bisons head to Edmonton with a berth at nationals already in their back pocket, having nothing to lose against the nation's number-one team.

Manitoba comes into Clare Drake Arena not only knowing they've beaten Alberta twice this season, but also bringing with them arguably the conference's top goaltender in the form of Steve Christie.

"They know they've had success against us, and have come in here and played very well. Obviously, when they make a mistake, Christie is there to make the save, so I think they're going to play with a lot of confidence — a certain swagger — and be very physical against us. We have to make sure that mentally and physically we're plugged in, and are ready for possibly three really tough games," Thurston explained.

The price will be right this weekend for Alberta, as they'll welcome the return of slick-skating Derek Price to their blueline, after the fourth-year defender missed the entirety of the regular season and first round of playoffs coming off hand surgery this past off-season.

"His hand is as healed as it's going to



DANIELLE JENSON

**LAST HURRAH** Bears captain Tyler Metcalfe leads the Golden Bears into the conference championship series this weekend at home, in what will be Metcalfe's and five other Bears final home games as members of the Green and Gold.

be — he can't do anymore damage to it. It's just a matter of playing through the pain, so we're going to see where he goes in," Thurston said.

With both teams bound for nationals, the series still holds importance with the conference championship on the line, but does give both sides

the comfort of knowing their seasons won't be over regardless of the outcome in the series.

"It's to see who wins Canada West, but it's not a life and death type situation. If you don't win, you can regroup — you've got your mulligan, and you go on, so if you don't win Canada West

you go on and try to win nationals."

The battle for the Canada West crown gets underway this Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Clare Drake Arena, and again Saturday at the same time. Game 3, if necessary, goes Sunday at 7 p.m., with all games available on [www.bears.ualberta.ca](http://www.bears.ualberta.ca).

## Pandas set to make return to women's hockey nationals after year's absence

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Editor

After a year-long absence from the national tournament, the Pandas hockey squad makes their return to the national stage today as they take on the Laurier Golden Hawks at nationals in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

The Pandas make their 11th trip to the national tournament after a hiatus in 2009. Falling last season in the conference championship to the Manitoba Bisons meant the end of the Pandas season.

"It was awful; I hated it, everyone else did, too," said Pandas head coach Howie Draper on his team's absence from nationals a year ago.

That devastating loss a season ago has been the fuel to the Pandas' season from day one.

"Each and every person on this team was committed to not having, or experiencing that feeling again, and that's really what drove us to the success we've experienced."

Coming off a thrilling series-clinching win over the Manitoba Bisons last weekend at home, the Pandas won't have any time to relish

that victory, as they'll face last year's nationals runners-up tonight in the form of the OUA Champions from Wilfrid Laurier.

"Their system is water-tight. They've got a very fast team and they work very hard, so that in itself will make them very tough competition," Draper said.

"A key going into the game against them is that we're going to have to set the tempo, and once we're up there, we have to make sure that we're executing at a very high level."

Backstopping the Pandas in goal will be conference Second Team All-Star Dana Vinge, who heads into the national tournament after putting up on of her best performances of the year last weekend in Game 2 of the conference championship series against the Bisons.

"She seems very calm and composed, and seems like she's in a really good place which leads me to believe she is feeling quite confident," said Draper of his starting goalie.

"I think she's quite motivated to do the best that she possibly can, given this is her final year with us. She wants to have a strong impact, and

wants to leave on a winning note, so I certainly get the sense that motivation will be an easy thing for her and that she'll be playing at the top of her game."

Second on the slate for the Pandas at the national tournament will be the host St. Francis Xavier X-Women, either Friday night in the case of a loss against Laurier in the opener tonight, or Saturday in the case of a Pandas win.

For Draper's squad, pivotal in their second game of the tournament will be taking the boisterous St. FX crowd out of the game early, as Alberta will look to silence the hometown fans with an upbeat start.

"They've got the advantage of having the home crowd behind them," Draper said, "and it's going to be a loud crowd, because it's primarily a student town here in Antigonish, so that'll give them a lot of confidence. We have to do our best to set the tempo and take the crowd out of the equation."

The Pandas kick off their search tonight for their seventh national title against Wilfrid Laurier at 10:30 p.m. MST tonight, with that and all other national tournament games available online at [www.ssnccanada.ca](http://www.ssnccanada.ca).



PETE YEE

**STANDING IN THE WAY** The Pandas face the number-two seed Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks tonight to open their national tournament in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.



# Bernard highlights Alberta wrestlers at CIS nationals

ROBERT FRIGON  
Sports Staff

Ali Bernard led the U of A wrestling team's stampede into Cow Town last weekend. Her historic drive to become CIS women's wrestling first five-time champion was completed last Saturday by defeating Calgary's Erica Wiebe.

"Ali won her match convincingly," said U of A head wrestling coach Owen Dawkins.

Dawkin's was convinced that his star product out of New Ulm, Minnesota would win heading into competition — and she didn't disappoint.

"She is at such a different level — she is an Olympian," Dawkins said.

"If she had lost, it would have been a huge upset. So it's kind of tough for her because she was expected to win and everything was within her control."

With all that pressure on Bernard, she stepped it up and finished her illustrious career with a gold medal win. Head coach Owen Dawkins, who was the MVP of the Golden Bears wrestling squad in for the 2000/01 season, thinks Bernard, despite making history, was robbed at the national championship of an important honour.

"They didn't give her outstanding wrestler of the meet and she should have got it," he said.

This was the only blemish on what was otherwise a picture-perfect ending to an outstanding collegiate career — in the grand scheme of things, though, it pales in comparison to the five gold medals that will now weigh her down, instead of the weight of performing that once stood on her shoulders.

"Even though she was expected to win there is still a certain amount of pressure, but at the end, it was alright. She felt good. I think she is fairly happy with her result."

Looking to feed off of Bernard's gold-medal performance, the team failed to capture any other medals, but did manage to improve on last season's finish with a trio of fourth-place finishes.

"Last weekend's results were mixed — some were good. Like I have said from day one, we're young and we're in a rebuilding mode. All I was looking for was improvement over last year. In every way, we improved over last year. Last year, we only had two people going for bronze."

**"She is at such a different level — she is an Olympian."**

OWEN DAWKINS  
U OF A WRESTLING HEAD COACH

The three fourth-place finishes improved on the dismal two last year. Those results plus a gold medal, 2010 looks to be a big improvement over last year.

"Kyle Stephens [in the 57kg division], Connor Hoy [in the 65kg division], and Meaghan Young [in the 82kg division] were huge successes this weekend. They were all in for a bronze medal. They didn't win, but at least they were competitive in the medal rounds," Dawkins said.

# Tracksters head to Windsor for nationals

U of A track and field squad heads to nationals with several medal hopefuls

EMERSON CSORBA  
Sports Staff

As a gruelling mental and physical sport, track and field demands constant focus if athletes desire to succeed. Following a season filled with intense training and numerous competitions, the Bears and Pandas will need to make one last push at nationals this weekend in Windsor, Ontario if they hope to finish the year strong.

Head coach Georgette Reed and her athletes are ready for the challenge that lays ahead.

"The compact season has prepared our CIS athletes mentally for whatever will get thrown at them — whether it be long delays or breaks, false starts, or technical problems. These athletes have dealt with every challenge thrown at them this year and have come through it all with flying colours, so I expect nothing less at CIS," Reed said.

The squads have sufficient experience following numerous competitions, including the Golden Bear Open and recent Canada West Championship at the Pavilion, where the CIS number-seven ranked Pandas finished second.

"Our athletes are ready to go. The ones that have done all of their preparation and all of the little things are the ones that have made it to CIS and are ready," Reed stated.

Still, Track and Field coach Georgette Reed has her sights set on strong performances and podium finishes from a handful of athletes.

Canada West Female Rookie of the Year Courtney Wilkes of the Pandas looks to excel in Windsor, as does fourth-year veteran pentathlete



INDY RANDHAWA

**ROOKIE LEAP** CW Rookie of the Year Courtney Wilkes is a strong medal threat.

Amanda Schneck.

"Both athletes have had very good years and I am looking forward to seeing how they cap their indoor seasons off at CIS."

In the Canada West Championships, Schneck dominated her competition, taking the gold with 3,439 points in the pentathlon.

The first-year Wilkes finished second in triple jump by flying 11.88 metres, earning a Canada West silver medal.

High-jumper Lindsey Bergevin also looks to pick up hardware, after winning women's high jump in the conference championships, with a best jump of 1.75 metres.

Several other Pandas have strong shots at the podium, including 1,000-metre runner Lindsay Acheson, fresh off a second place finish in her event, along with hurdler Kathryn McCaffrey

following her 60-metre hurdles victory at the Canada West finals.

Both the 4x200m and 4x800m relay squads will also be medal threats on the women's side for Reed.

On the men's side, cross-country runner Jaime Weikum, coming off a second-place 3,000-metre finish in the Canada West Championships, looks to impress at nationals, along with Jaden Ostapowich, who took home silver in the 600m at the conference championships.

"Both Jamie Weikum and Jaden Ostapowich have a chance at being top ten if they have good races. Jamie has been looking very solid this indoor season. He really built off of his top-sixteen cross-country performance and if he has a good day — which I believe he will — he will surprise quite a few people at CIS."

## LINE EDITORS

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the following line editor positions\*\* for the 2010/2011 publishing year:

- MANAGING EDITOR
- SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
- DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR
- OPINION EDITOR
- SPORTS EDITOR
- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
- PHOTO EDITOR
- DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR
- ONLINE EDITOR

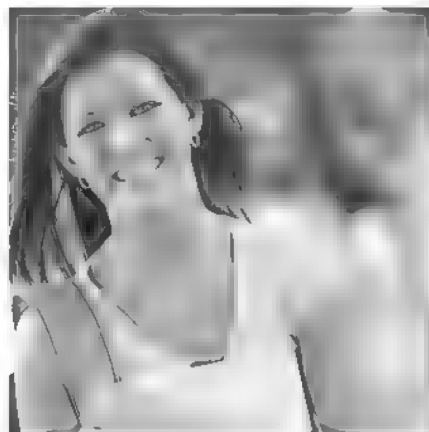
All terms run from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$113/issue\*. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1889.05\* per month, all other line editors will receive \$1532.06\* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Ashleigh Brown, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 11 March 2010.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

\* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.  
\*\* Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/jobs](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/jobs)



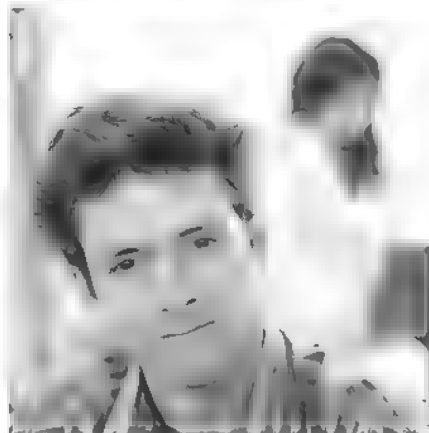
# THE GATEWAY

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# Volley-Bears head to B.C. in search of third consecutive national title

Alberta heads to the national tournament at Thompson Rivers after capturing conference championship at home a week ago

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Editor

Head coach Terry Danyluk and his Golden Bears volleyball squad head to Kamloops, B.C. this weekend for the national tournament hoping that the third time is still the charm, as they head out in search of their third consecutive national title.

The Green and Gold will travel to Thompson Rivers University fresh off another conference championship and as the number-two seed behind Laval. The Bears will face the host WolfPack in their quarter-final match Friday — two teams who are no strangers to each other, having matched up three times already this season, including this past weekend at the Canada West final four, where Alberta downed TRU 3-1 in semifinal action.

"I think the big thing is that every time you have another opportunity, it's the next big test," Danyluk said. "We have played against them, which is a good thing, but we can't anticipate them being exactly the same team, we have to prepare for them to come out tough and we have to do the same."

A key for the Bears in their opener against the home side will be to



**DOUBLE THREAT** Thomas Jarmoc (left), and Mike DeRocco (right) were both Canada West All-Stars this season.

weather the opening in front of the TRU faithful, who will be watching their squad host its first national tournament on its home court.

"It'll be a good environment, and for us just to focus. They'll make a big push with the opportunity to play in front of their home crowd, and I think we'll have to be prepared for that — be patient

with our own game, and do the things we have to do with our own game."

The quarterfinal match is the lone game of the tournament's opening round to feature two schools from the same conference, and while the familiarity the two sides have for each other may be a benefit, playing a conference opponent to open the tournament isn't

the norm.

"I wasn't expecting it, but that's what it is and we'll have to deal with it," said Danyluk of facing a fellow Canada West school off the hop. "Traditionally, they've tried to avoid having first-round matchups between teams from the same conference. It doesn't usually make sense to have to play the

same team that you played to get to the national championship. There's no written rule — it's just an expectation for the most part, but that's what the seeding committee decided to do, so that's what we're faced with."

For the Bears, their success in the past seems to continue to breed more success, as they'll go in not as the top seed, but the defending champions nonetheless.

"It's not the same team as last year — there's some of the same components, but most of the guys have been on our team or other teams that have won championships. I think understanding that there is a different aura around a championship is the biggest thing as an athlete, and how you manage yourself in that environment is the key."

"You have to prepare yourself knowing that there's going to be little extras around everywhere, and a few other distractions that you're not used to seeing, but with experience from being in those situations, you get used to handling them in order for you to perform."

The Bears and WolfPack get their national tournaments underway tomorrow night at 7 p.m. All the national tournament action can be seen live at [www.ssncanada.ca](http://www.ssncanada.ca).

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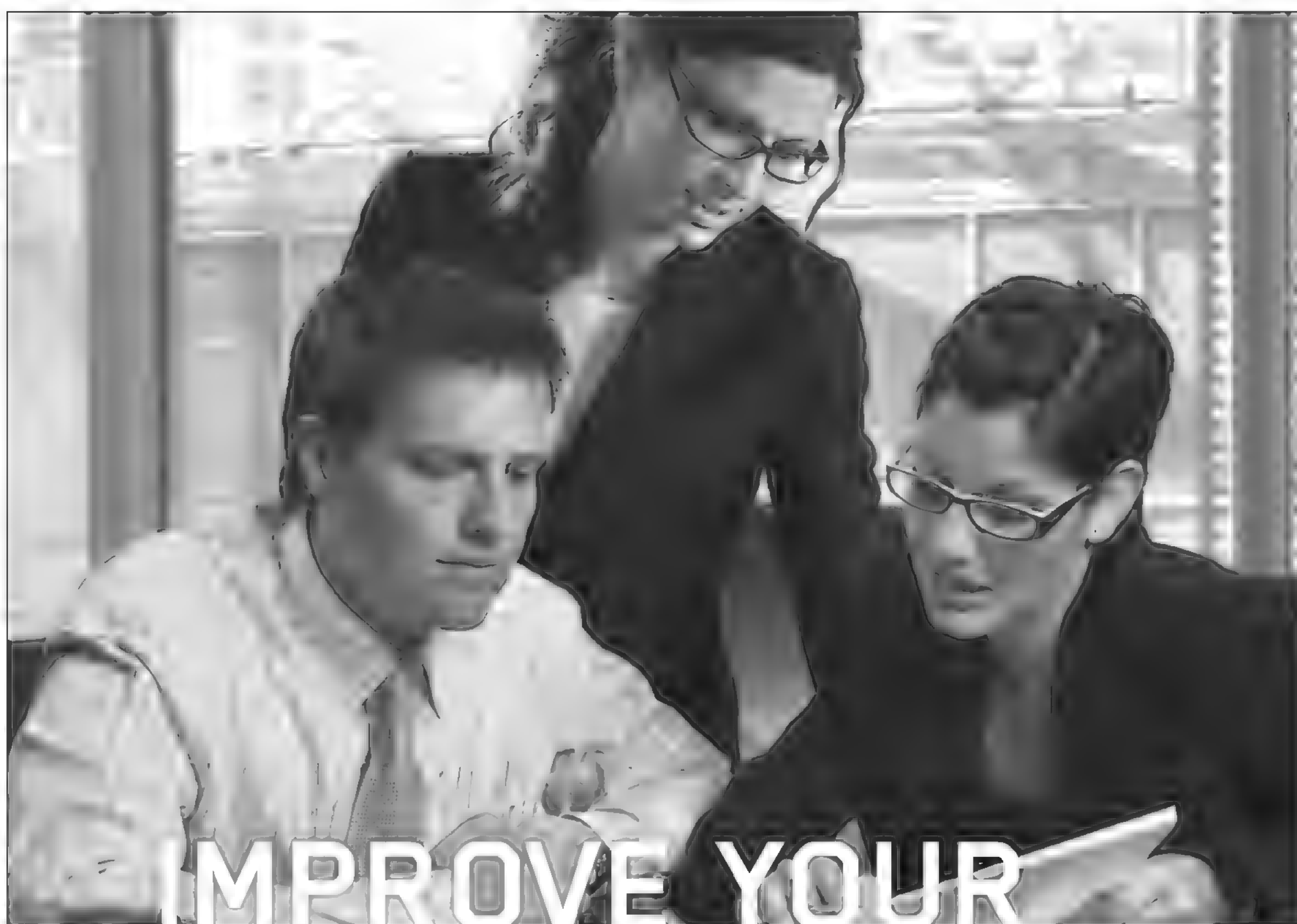
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# Saville Centre welcomes CIS curling elite for national championships

NATHAN LIEWICKI  
Sports Staff

For the first time in its short history, the CIS/CCA Curling Championship will be played in western Canada, with the University of Alberta Golden Bears and Pandas teams hosting the event at the Saville Sports Centre.

Fourteen of the best men's teams and 12 of the best women's teams from across the country will converge on one of the world's finest curling facilities over a five-day stretch, with each team looking to capture some championship hardware.

Unlike the OUA, where curling is as competitive as volleyball is in Canada West, the Bears and Pandas squads did not compete in any conference-sanctioned events. However, they have stayed in game shape by playing in the extremely competitive Men's and Women's Super Leagues at Saville.

Despite the lack of university competition this season, head coach Rob Krepps, Bears coach Randy Olson, and Pandas coach Gary Coderre have high expectations for the host teams at nationals.

"There are no weak links on our Pandas or our Bears, and we feel that we've done everything we can do to get ready for this tournament," Krepps said referring to the extensive preparation his teams have put in.

"I would be disappointed if at least one of our two teams is not in the playoffs and I would think both will challenge for a playoff berth."

The Pandas are led by skip Jessica Mair. A sociology major, Mair has recently played on the World Curling Tour as the second for Heather Nedohin's team and that should infuse her with confidence heading into nationals. Dana Ferguson (third), JoAnne Taylor (second), and Rachel Pidherny (lead) round out the Pandas rink.

"Jessica had a solid junior career and has skipped two Alberta teams at the provincial playdowns. Her tactical and



PETE YEE

**PEBBLED PARADISE** The Saville Sports Centre is ready to play host to CIS curling nationals this weekend where both the Bears and Pandas will be represented.

shot-making skills will make her able to rival any skip in the tournament," Krepps explained.

Eric Richard is the skip of the Bears and he, too, enjoyed a solid career in the junior ranks, but this weekend marks his debut at the CIS national tournament.

Karrick Martin, the grizzled veteran of the team, will be making his second appearance at nationals (2008). The son of Olympic gold medallist Kevin Martin, Karrick throws third stones for Richard.

"Karrick has been with the program for three years and is a great athlete. He was at every draw watching his dad at the Olympics, and hopefully

that experience will rub off on him and he will have nothing but positive vibes during the competition," Krepps noted.

Rounding out the Bears' lineup is Kody Moncrief (lead) Brett Hilker (second), and Parker Konschuh (alternate).

With the elder Martin certain to be in attendance to cheer on the host rinks the pressure might become magnified, but Krepps believes if the teams manage their expectations on the home ice then they should be able to play to their full potential.

End-to-end play at the Saville Sports Centre began last night, but the action will continue all day Thursday right through to Sunday morning's women's and men's finals.

# Oilers rebuild won't just happen overnight



BREN  
CARGILL

Sports  
Commentary

Last week marked the beginning of the long and arduous process known as the Oilers rebuilding project. With the exodus of Denis Grebeshkov, Steve Staios, and Lubomir Visnovsky via trade for draft picks and younger (and cheaper) assets, Steve Tambellini put on his hard hat and put out the "team under construction" sign.

These trade deadline deals aren't going to enhance the Oilers' standing this season, as both Aaron Johnson and Ryan Whitney have struggled this season coming off past injuries. These moves, coupled with the Oilers being all but assured of having either the first or second pick in the upcoming NHL Entry Draft after the draft lottery, have fans everywhere hoping for a quick turnaround within the next two seasons.

While this could indeed happen, the odds are not stacked in the Oilers' favour. Between still possessing a couple of huge contracts that

Tambellini will have to sell his soul to move (see: Shawn Horcoff, Nikolai Khabibulin), a lack of overall young talent in their system, and the fact that there is no generational talent in upcoming drafts, the Oilers are about anywhere between three to five years away from being Western Conference contenders.

Thanks to several moves under former GM Kevin Lowe, including Shawn Horcoff's contract, the Oilers are stuck with a third-line centre making an average of \$5.5 million for the next five years who also possesses a No Trade clause.

Injury-prone defenceman Sheldon Souray's No Trade clause runs out on July 1, and if Tambellini can simply get out from under the remaining \$11 million left on his deal, then he should pull the trigger. However, you can't blame Lowe for the Khabibulin signing. Not only is he a 37-year-old goaltender with major back issues, but if he retires, his contract which has three years left at \$3.75 million, remains on the cap for the duration because he signed it after the age of 35.

Until the Oilers get out from under these contracts they'll continue to be between the cap and a hard place, making it even harder to sign free agents in a city where that's already a tough task.

Another lasting mark of the Lowe regime is that the Oilers have no up-and-coming impact players tuning their games at the AHL level. Fans do have Jordan Eberle and Magnus Paajarvi-Svensson coming up front, with Jeff Petry providing potential on the backend. However, all of these players could use at least a year in the AHL playing for Oklahoma City next season before coming to Edmonton.

Andrew Cogliano is an example of a rushed player who could have used some time in the minors before coming to the NHL, and the Oilers should be careful to handle those three a little more carefully to ensure a better transition.

The last issue is that, while either Taylor Hall or Tyler Seguin will probably turn into star players, they aren't at the same level as Sidney Crosby or Alex Ovechkin in terms of almost single-handedly being able to turn a franchise around.

The Oilers will end up being comparable more to Chicago or Los Angeles who win based on their incredible depth of talent rather than a couple of players that are just that much better than everyone else. So much like the two aforementioned teams, a rebuild project is at the very least three to five years away from producing a winning club.



## Fighting the Freshman 15: Week 9

The contenders open their cookbooks and share the recipes they've been using to help shed the pounds.

THE GATEWAY

[www.thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/freshman15](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/freshman15)



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### astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

I ended up at the Winterlight Star Party in Elk Island National Park this past weekend. Did any of you other chumps go? If you stayed home and played *World of Warcraft* all night, you really missed out. We were treated to a clear, mild night — it was wonderful! I got to look through a huge Dobsonian telescope and see Orion's nebula (M42), I spotted many satellites whizzing around in orbit, and the planet Mars was visible in all its angry glory. A truly great, nerdy night.

I'm thinking of starting a community astronomy night in my neighbourhood. If such an event was started in your neighbourhood,

would you go? I'm thinking once a month, on Sunday nights, with two telescopes. If you have suggestions or comments about this, email me at [astronowatch@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:astronowatch@gateway.ualberta.ca).

As for things to look forward to this weekend, I'm off to Elk Island again. This time I'm bringing friends and my own telescope, plus tents. That's right, I'm going winter camping. If I don't make it back, preserve my frozen body until the year 3000, then revive me.

*AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at [thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch](http://thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch) or check out the FABservatory's site at [www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory](http://www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory)*



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PETE YEE

**DOGGIE TREATS** On March 9, students were able to get a dose of pet therapy of the shaggy kind.



ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



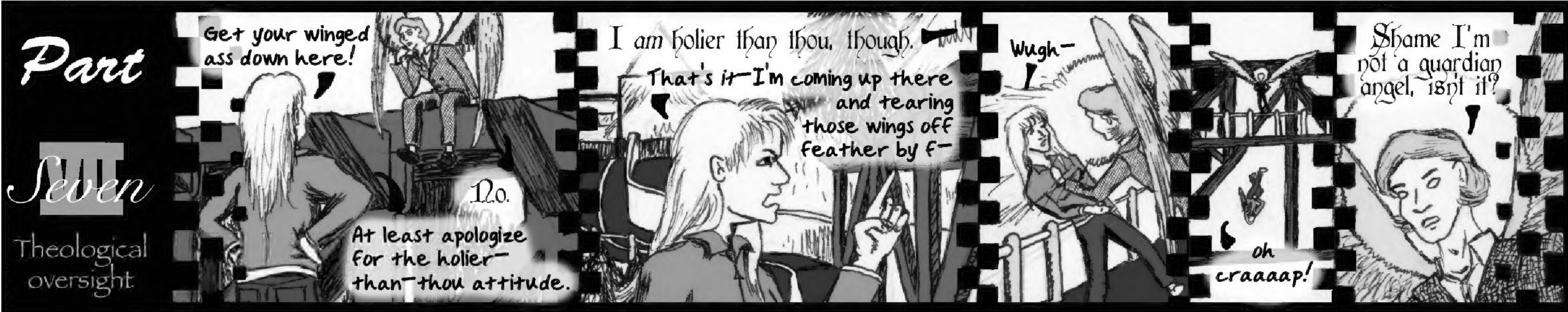
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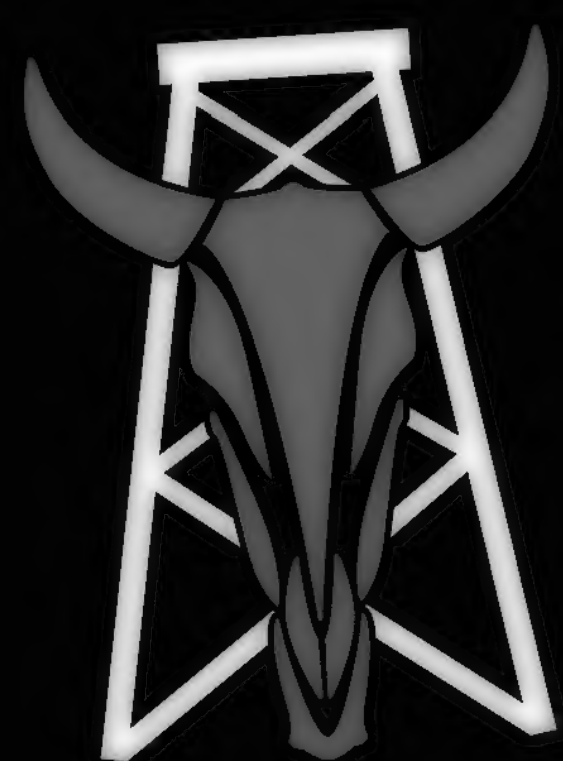
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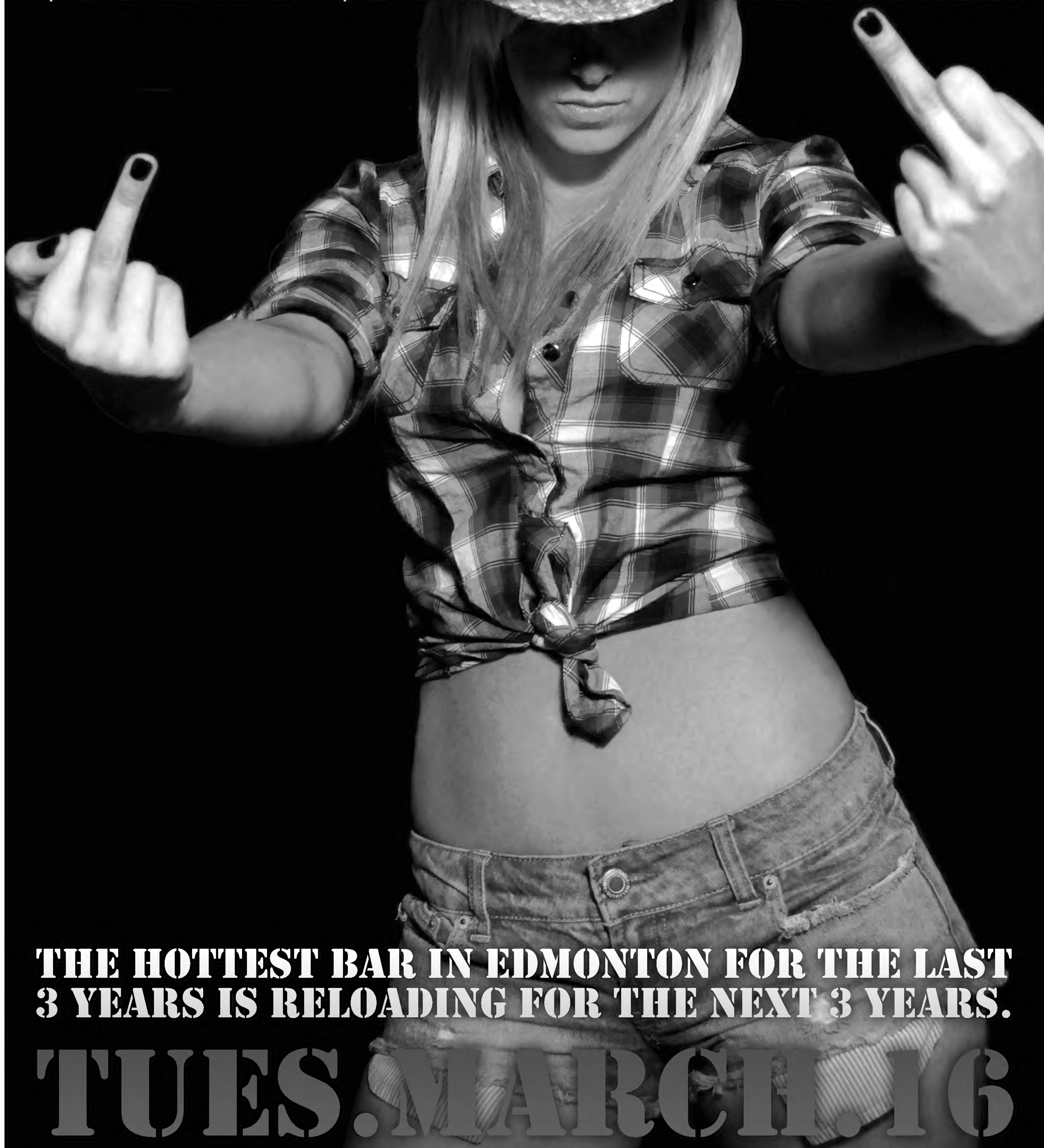






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